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von Ketel

# THE KETEL FAMILY<sup>c</sup>

ALSO

*(Ketele, Kettele, Kettel, Kittelle and Kittle)*

BY

SUMNER ELY WETMORE KITTELLE

REAR ADMIRAL

*United States Navy*



WASHINGTON, D. C.

1946



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SUMNER E. W. KITTELLE  
Washington, D. C.



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TO ELIZABETH R. KITTELLE  
*in deep appreciation*  
*of*  
*her interest and encouragement.*

✓  
B.O. #6300

1-17-69

Goodspeed

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## THE KETEL FAMILY IN EUROPE

Realizing that when The Eternal Father makes out, what I hope may be, a good conduct discharge for me, the data concerning the Ketel Family will be so scattered, in numerous books, documents and records, that no one but I could possibly piece it together; so I will take the task in hand and try to leave my descendants a suitable and authentic record.

From many sources I find that the Ketel Family is an old one, as families and records go, but to avoid any charge of boasting I frankly admit that all families living are, probably, equally ancient in origin.

The first record shows that in the ninth century Ketels were lords of the Western Isles (Shetlands, Orkneys and Hebrides) and that they were, like other Vikings, active as far west as Iceland where they are recorded as holding office. Later on there is a record that King Canute of Denmark and England enfeoffed a Ketel with a county. This was most probably the beginning of the title of graf or count in the family. This appears again when we find the Counts of Ketel in Rügen.

Toward the end of the fifteenth century we find that the head of the family was Graf von Ketel of Ketelshagen in the Island of Rügen. Maps of that island show the estate which it is stated contained a lovely beech forest. Of this forest I quote a writer familiar with the scene:—"The forest is extremely beautiful. It extends for miles and is full of paths and roads that lead you to unexpected loveliness; silent glades of bracken, silvery in the afternoon light, whose fallow deer examine you for one brief moment of curiosity before they spring away, panic stricken, into the deeper shades of the beeches."

It is recorded that Duke Boguslav X and Duke Philip Julius of Pomerania extended to the Ketel family the fief or feoff of Ketelshagen. In 1789 the estate was sold to the Count later Prince of Putbus; this was one hundred and forty-seven years after our Joachim von Ketel III came to America. In the sixteenth century Heinrich, a younger son of Anthony Graf von Ketel of Ketelshagen, moved across the strait to Stralsund, which city



is about as close to Rügen as the Battery is to Staten Island. Heinrich von Ketel seems to have had a fine education as he was a doctor of laws and became a senator and burgomaster of Stralsund. He was the first of the family, as far as records go, to leave Rügen permanently for the mainland, and he was the great grandfather of Joachim III who established the Ketel family in America in 1642.

Before proceeding further I will include translations from two officially recognized sources. The following is a translation from *Deutscher Adels Lexicon* by Ernest H. Kneschke.

“KETEL:—Originally one of the noble families of the Island of Rügen and for many generations in possession of the estate of Ketelshagen or Kettelshagen near Putbus, which as early as 1451 belonged to the family. The name was also written Ketele, Kettele and Kettel. Probably the family arose in the middle of the Fifteenth Century and it is certain from Conrad and Berthold von Ketel. From the latter stem came four sons of whom Anthonius was in 1570 Lord of Ketelshagen.”

After his death it descended to his son Jurgen I, whose sons were Heinrich, Ernst, Claus and Jurgen II and they were later invested with the paternal heritage. Claus held the estate until the Thirty Year's War drove him away; and at the end of the seventeenth century Ketelshagen again came into possession of the family which then resided in Selchow near Greifswalde. In 1789 Ketelshagen was sold and in 1803 was in possession of Muggenburg of Anclam. Later in 1820 Wilhelm von Ketel, formerly an officer of Prussian Dragoons, lived with several children in Mecklenburg.”

Here let me note that Canute the Great, King of Denmark, Norway and England lived from 995 to 1035. He was the son of Sweyn Forkbeard, King of Denmark. Canute's body is interred in Winchester, England.

The following is translated from *Pommersches Wappenbuch* by Bagmihl, Stettin 1843, pages 132-133.

The first record of the von Ketel family appears in the middle of the fifteenth century, when Curdt von Ketel sold half of the family estate of Ketelshagen to Berndt von Buggenhagen. The brothers Berthold and Curdt von Ketel in 1452 shared their paternal feudal tenure of Ketelshagen.







SUMNER E. W. KITTELLE  
Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Berthold left four sons Hennig, Bartelt, Heinrich and Anthonius who were invested with one half of Ketelshagen in 1505 by Duke Boguslav X of Pomerania. By them it was transmitted to Anthonius, the youngest of the four sons, who in 1505 was still a minor. He remained in possession until 1570 and was succeeded by his son Jurgen; his second son Tonnies must have died earlier. Jurgen's sons Heinrich, Ernst, Claus and Jurgen were in turn enfeoffed with their paternal feudal tenure by Duke Philip Julius. Claus retained the estate until driven out by the miseries of the Thirty Year's War and in 1633 the estate was in the hands of foreigners. Towards the end of the seventeenth century the estate came into the family once more, the holder being Captain of Cavalry Philip Gutzlaff von Ketel the son of the second Jurgen, but the descendants of Claus were still living and not until 1756 did they die out in the person of Herrn von Ketel residing in Selchow near Anclam. The estate then passed into the hands of a mortgage holder until 1738 when Captain Ewert Ulrich von Ketel, said to be a descendant of Tonnies (son of 1505-1570 mentioned Tonnies), regained possession. His son Boguslav in 1789 sold the estate to the Count of Putbus, to whom, it is believed, Ketelshagen now belongs. The son of Boguslav, Wilhelm, formerly an officer of dragoons in the service of Prussia, in 1820 lived in Mechlenburg without real estate. He is reported as having several children.

The following is a translation from the *Grosses und Allgemeines Wappenbuch*, by J. Siebmacher.

Ketel:—An ancient family of Rügen, Pomerania, probably already extinct, though still flourishing in 1820, whose ancestral seat was Ketelshagen Island of Rügen. It was small in numbers and in 1803 still wealthy.

Of the members of the family who moved over to the nearby mainland and lived in Stralsund, Grimmen and Demmin, J. Siebmacher writes:—

Ketel:—A patrician family of Demmin which moved from Stralsund. Joachim von Ketel in 1576 was senator and in 1578 Bergmaster.

In his *Bürgerliche Geschlechter*, Funfter Band, Theil III the same J. Siebmacher states of the branch of the family that



moved to the mainland that they used simpler arms, viz:—"Or, three roses gules 2 and 1. Crest, Three roses gules on stems." The reason for this is not recorded.

The name Ketel is of Viking origin and is of the same blood as the Danes. The Norwegian conquerer and founder of the "jarls" of the Western Isles was named Ketel. Also for many years in Viking days records show that the family held important offices in Iceland. A history of family names in the Carnegie Library in Washington states that the name Ketel is one of the very earliest family names on record and goes on to state that King Canute of Denmark and England enfeoffed a Ketel with a county. From the Norse word "jarl" and the Anglo-Saxon word "eorl" the English title earl is derived.

Through the courtesy of a Danish friend Mr. Jonas von Rosen and a relative of the Danish Count von Rosen I have learned that the title of graf was still in force in the Ketel family at the time of the Declaration of Independence of the United States. Mr. von Rosen's brother who has an estate on Rügen kindly sent me the following officially attested documents:—

Wir endes-unterschriebene Adliche Einge setzene des Furstentums Rugens bezeugen jiermit auf Adlichen Glauben das derin Konigl. Danischer Diensten stehende Lieutenant Andreas Gottlieb von Rosen von Adlichen Eltern allhier gezeuget und geboren, mithin von Adlicher Familie und Herkommen sey, welcher wir mit unserer Namens Unterschrift und Adlichen Petschaft besiegeln wollen. So geschehen zu

Bergen d. 20 ten April 1776.

Siegel—A. B. von Platen von Folson,  
 " —Aug. Friedr. von Scheel zu Necla,  
 " —Gr. von Ketel zu Ketelshagen,  
 " —Wolfradt, Landvoigt,  
 " —C. R. von Schelen zu Damberg,  
 " —C. B. von Norman zu Sasnitz,  
 " —Gr. Barnekow zu Ralswied,  
 " —H. von Platen, Konigl. Hoffrath,

Die Richtigkeit und Vollständigkeit der vorstehenden Abschrift wird hierdurch beglaubigt.

Kirchhorde, den 6 Januar, 1894.

der E. Amtmann

Amt. Kirchhorde.

ges. Wachtenhofer.

Mr. von Rosen told me that:—"The von Rosen mentioned in the document is my great grandfather, who was the first member of the Pomeranian family to establish himself in Denmark. He was then a young lieutenant anxious to verify himself and later became Governor in Holstein and Royal Chamberlain to the Danish King."

In a letter to me dated December 27, 1931 Mr. von Rosen stated:—"In a New Year's letter to Prince Valdemar of Denmark, I told him about your comments on the Virgin Islands, translating the same into Danish."

This refers to the time that the author of this book was Governor of the Virgin Islands in 1921-22. These islands had just been bought from Denmark to keep them from falling into the hands of the predatory Germans. There were a number of Danes living in the islands at that time and they were pleased to have a governor of Danish descent. At one time the islands were visited by Prince Axel of Denmark, who is a naval officer, and who was the guest of Governor Kittelle. Upon relinquishing the governorship Governor Kittelle was presented by the Danish residents with a full set of china from the Royal Factory in Copenhagen.

The family remained pure Danish until Heinrich von Ketel our great grandfather moved across the strait to Stralsund. After that the men of the family married women of Mechlenburg families until our immediate progenitor Joachim von Ketel III came across the Atlantic and thereafter for several generations the wives were of Holland Dutch blood. Mechlenburg is geographically speaking a part of Denmark.

In view of the fact that a map of Rügen and the nearby mainland will not be readily at hand it may be stated that Stralsund is just across the narrow strait from Rügen. From Stralsund to Grimmen is but fifteen miles and to Demmin but twenty-eight miles, so the mainland branch of family occupied small area.

From the book *Die Deutschen Familien Namen* by Professor Albert Heintze I quote:—

Daher stammt hun eine ausserordentliche Menge von Familien Namen, die einfach aus einem Ortsnamen besteden.



Besonders leicht zu erkennen sind die zusammen gesetzen, bei welchen etwa folgende Ausgänge die häufigsten sind—Hagen—Hundershagen, Ketelshagen; Hain—Rosenhain: Hahn—Langenhahn.

Further on in the book he says:—"Hain und hahn sind zusammen sie hungan as hagen." In short hagen seems to be the source of hain, hahn, han and huyn. In this way in Albany Ketelshagen was changed into Ketelshuyn.

Rügen being off the coast of Pomerania and since our family did at one time move onto the mainland by way of Stralsund some attention is due to this region of the western Baltic. The Saxon name Pomore or Pommern means on the sea and it is divided geographically into three districts:—Stralsund, Stettin and Coslin. The first of these is all that concerns us for it was in Stralsund and the nearby towns of Grimmen and Demmin that our family lived. The terrain is low and flat. In medieval times Pomerania was divided into several duchies. Rügen belonged to Denmark and the island is only twenty-five by thirty-two miles in area. The official records in Bergen the county town of Rügen show that our name was also spelled Ketele, Kettele and Kettel. In primitive days the kettle or cauldron was the most used of all household implements; the Vikings calling it ketyl and the old English cytel.

## THE THREE GENERATIONS ON THE MAINLAND

Heinrich von Ketel son of Anthony, Count of Ketel of Ketelshagen, was the first to move to the mainland settling in Stralsund. He married Anna daughter of Reverend Herman Schüttens and they had one son whom I shall designate as Joachim I. He later became a senator and was mayor of Stralsund.

Of the Schüttens family I find the following recorded:—"Seit 1390 bekannte alte Stralsunder patricier familie. Rotger Schüttens being Rattsher in 1450."

Their coat-of-arms is described thus:—"Nach siegeln und urkinden von 1490-1510, Schild, sparren, von drei klaien flugeln begleitet. Helm, Offener flug."

Joachim I married three times. First, to Margaret daughter of Senator Joachim Wessells. She died August 8, 1572. They had three children, Anna who married Spliet, Joachim II and Margarethe who in 1592 married Claus Volchow who became a senator in 1627.

Of the Wessells family I find the following:—"Stratsunder, seit 1400 bekannte patricier familie. Bekannt in Franz Wessells geborne 1478, Rattsher 1524, Burgomaster 1541, died 1570." Their coat-of-arms is recorded as:—"Im schilde drei durch einem ring gestecte stabe mit busheln oder blumenstengel, zwei geschragt. Helm, Die beiden geschragten."

Joachim I married second Anna daughter of Senator Heinrich von Stein who died 1573 and Anna von Ketel died in 1588. This marriage resulted in one daughter Katherine born June 15, 1581 who married Geod Loweling and died August 22, 1661.

Joachim I married third Ilsabe Preuzien and after his death she married Erich Volchow. This third marriage resulted in three children, Suttfeld who died in 1661, Dorothea who married Joachim Baldewin and Ilsabe who married Behoent Hasert and died in 1666.

The American historian Arthur James Weise, a voluminous writer of New York history and author of the Ketelhuyn Chronicles travelled in Rügen and nearby Mecklenburg in the late 1890s in search of records of the Ketel family and states:—"The ancestral estates of the Ketel family called as early as 1451

Ketelshagen, were on the island of Rügen, where the family was long famous in the history of its nobility. The patrial title was also written Ketele, Kettele and Kettel.”

Mr. Weise also writes that the early church records of Demmin and Grimmen were lost or destroyed when the invasion of Gustavus Adolphus in the Thirty Year's War swept over those two towns and with that destruction went the records of the birth and marriage of Joachim II who was the father of our Joachim III. King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, 995-1035, invaded the mainland, having first swept over Rügen, with a force of 16,000 men, landing at Peenemunde. He cleared Pomerania of all opposing forces which were made up of and officered by Italians, Irishmen, Czechs, Croats, Danes, Spaniards and Walloons. He occupied Stralsund and all the surrounding country. Demmin is spoken of as an old Slavonian town prominent commercially as early as 540. Grimmen is now a railroad center.



## THE KETEL FAMILY IN AMERICA

### FIRST GENERATION

Joachim Ketel III, son of Joachim von Ketel II of Grimmen in Mechlenburg, was driven from home by the invasion of Gustavus Adolphus in The Thirty Year's War together with the rest of his family. The head of the clan Claus Graf von Ketel had also been driven to abandon his estate of Ketelshagen and retreat to the mainland. Joachim III drifted to Amsterdam, Holland, where he came in touch with the Court Jeweler, Kiliaen van Rensselaer who offered him land if he would go to the new world and settle. The offer must have been tempting to the homeless young man for he consented to go and duly boarded the good ship *de Houttyn* which sailed from Amsterdam for New Amsterdam June 6, 1642. The senior passenger on board was a preacher Doctor Johannes Megapolensis of the Dutch Reformed Church. He was to be pastor of the flock and later on he did preach at places all up and down the Hudson River and became a noted figure on the colony. The other passengers on board the ship were:—Matheld Willemsen, wife and four children, Abraham Staes a surgeon and his servant, Evert Pels a beer brewer with his wife and a servant, John Helms, Johan Carstenssen, Jeuriack Bestvaell, Claes Jansen, Paulus Jansen, Hans Vos, Juriack Pauwelssen, Hendrick Albertsen and his wife Gertruyd Dries and Hendrick Dries her borthor.

Kiliaen van Rensselaer was termed a patroon and he had been granted a large tract of land up the Hudson River by the Dutch Government and I wonder if it might have been in part payment for crown jewels. I cannot find out what sort of a deal Joachim made with him but Joachim was to the manor born and he was next to the domine in importance on board the ship. The following were the instructions that Patroon van Rensselaer gave to Doctor Megapolensis:—"He shall take care of these persons, embark on shipboard and having arrived, by God's help, at the Mannhattans, where the noble Director Kieft resides, see that they and my goods be forwarded to the colony by the first opportunity and be provided with food at my expense."

The group arrived at Fort Orange (now Albany) on August 11, 1642 and this shows pretty good speed for the de Houttyn and for sailing up the Hudson against the current. The colonists had been provided with temporary houses in some thirty thatched structures. The patroon ordered a church built for Domine Magapolensis but it could not be accomplished until 1646 because the Domine was very particular and did not approve of the plans drawn up by Arendt van Curler who was the patroons agent. The church is described as a small edifice thirty-four by nineteen feet, with pulpit and canopy, a seat for magistrates, one for deacons, nine benches and a corner seat. The total cost was thirty-two dollars. On week days it was used for the school.

Joachim III was recorded as being highly fortunate as he was assigned the most desirable lots in the town on the west side of Handelaarstraat, just north of Jonkerstraat. It was probably due to a recognition of his lineage for though he had dropped the von from his name upon leaving Europe he was nevertheless recognized as "hochgeboren" by van Rensselaer. In the map of Albany as it is today the property is on the southwest corner of Broadway and Maiden Lane.

The maps of Albany in 1695 show the town as being enclosed by a stockade for defense against the indians, with block houses at six salients and a large one on the west side. There were six entrance gates and the total erection cost four hundred dollars.

Two missionaries visited Albany in 1680 and described it thus:—"It is nearly square and lies against a hill, with several good streets on which there are maybe eighty or ninety houses. Fort Orange constructed by the Dutch lies below on the bank of the river, and it is set off with palisades filled with earth on the inside. It is now abandoned by the English who have built a similar one back of the town, high up on the declivity of the hill, from which it commands the place."

Joachim III received official title to his property on October 25, 1653 from Dutch Director Peter Stuyvesant in the name of the Dutch West India Company. When the English ousted the Dutch, the English Governor Richard Nicholls confirmed the patent May 14, 1667. Joachim built a suitable house on the



property and lived in it until his death in 1682, so he survived in America for forty years.

Joachim Ketel married Anna Douw and they had eight children:—Willem, Rachel, Maria, David, Daniel, Anna, Margarethe and Hilletje. It seems to have been too early in the settlement to record vital statistics and so I can find no dates for this marriage or for the births of the children. I also fail to find any record of Joachim's activities in the community. He was unquestionably a prominent citizen who did not have to go into farming in order to feed his family. He may have brought ample funds to Amsterdam and left them in care of Dutch bankers.

## SECOND GENERATION

Willem son of Joachim married Hilletje widow of Storm van der Zee and daughter of Gerrit Lansing. William married a second time Maria Ridder. His children by his first wife were:—Joachim IV born November 9, 1684, Storm born July 24, 1687 and Gerrit van der Zee with no record of his birth. Nothing of moment is recorded of Willem except that he died on his farm in Saratoga August 21, 1746. Taken in conjunction with his father they together spanned a century.

Rachel daughter of Joachim married in Albany March 9, 1687 Dirk son of Jacobus Tysse van der Heyden. Dirk bought a farm on the present site of the City of Troy from Pieter Pietertse van Woggelum and died there in October 1738. They had children as follows:—Agnes born August 28, 1687, Anna born January 1, 1689, Jacobus born August 3, 1690, Jacobus born April 23, 1692, Dirk born January 7, 1694, David born May 19, 1695, Matthys born January 10, 1697, Anna born March 26, 1699, Joachim V born September 15, 1700, Rachel born September 19, 1703 and Johannes born March 2, 1707. I find very little about these children except that Jacobus married Hester daughter of Nanning Harmense Visscher and David married her sister Geertruy.

Maria daughter of Joachim married in Albany May 7, 1693 Johannes Barentse Bratt. His property was near that of his father-in-law. He was killed by the indians at Schaghticoke October 20, 1711. An account of this massacre in the Ketel family will be given later. Maria died in October 1754.

David son of Joachim married in Albany March 31, 1695 Johanna Bratt. They were both killed and scalped by the indians on October 20, 1711 at the Ketel home in Schaghticoke and at which time the wife of his brother Daniel was carried by the indians to Canada as a captive. They had the following children:—Anna born December 8, 1695, Barent born February 21, 1697, Susanna born August 18, 1700. Margarethe born February 19, 1704, Marytje born February 23, 1707. Barent was killed by the indians in the massacre and Susanna married in New York December 15, 1721 Hendrick van de Water.



Daniel son of Joachim, our great grandfather of the second generation, was born in Albany about 1674 before records had begun to be carefully kept. On August 16, 1695 he married Debora daughter of Cornelis and Suster Viele, a woman destined to be recorded in history through a most distressing event. The Vieles were a prominent Schenectady family. Daniel's and Debora's lives were the most active and stirring ones of the times and they were good citizens and contributed twelve children to the colony. If one child of a name died they right away gave the same name to the next child if of suitable sex. The children were:—Anna born September 13, 1690, Grietje born March 16, 1698, Cornelis born November 3, 1702, Cornelis born December 6, 1703, Suster born January 30, 1704, Joachim VI born August 12, 17, 1705, Douw born October 5, 1707, Douw born December 19, 1708, Cornelis born in Schenectady March 6, 1711, David born October 19, 1712, Grietje born April 24, 1715, and Margarethe born January 24, 1722. Of these children Anna married January 8, 1725 Joachim van der Heyden of Schenectady and Margarethe married February 28, 1754 Dirk Jochimse van der Heyden.

Joachim VI son of Daniel married June 25, 1730 Eva daughter of Adam and Grietje Vrooman of Schenectady. Their children:—Anna born February 20, 1732, Daniel born September 23, 1733, Margareta born July 30, 1735, Daniel born January 5, 1737, Debora born September 10, 1738, Maria baptized at Schaghticoke June 14, 1740, Sarah born January 29, 1744, and Adam born December 1, 1745.

Of these children of Joachim VI Anna married October 27, 1750 Johannes de Garmo and had three children:—Rebecca born November 10, 1754, Joachim born November 14, 1756, Joachim born June 17, 1759, and Matthew born April 6, 1761.

Daniel married Catherina van Valkenburg and had one child Lea born January 22, 1749.

Margareta married Garret van Ness.

Debora married October 28, 1757 Cornelis son of Sander and Neeltje Lansing of Schenectady. Their children were:—Joachim born April 16, 1758, Joachim born March 16, 1760, Engeltje born August 4, 1766, Joachim born October 4, 1771 and Harmanus born July 3, 1774.

Maria married Johannes son of Alexander Lansing. Their children were:—Johannes born August 17, 1771, Jannetje born May 30, 1773, Joachim born December 9, 1774 and Alexander born March 23, 1777.

Sarah married September 11, 1762 Johannes van Vorst. She died February 1, 1834.

The colonists all the way from Schaghticoke west to Schenectady and beyond were greatly menaced by forays of French and Canadian Indians and were constantly crying for protection. Lieutenant Governors the Earl of Bellamont and Viscount Cornbury kept appealing to the Lords of Trade in London to do something about it but their lordships seemed delightfully indifferent as to what actually might happen to the said Colonists. This condition existed from 1689 to 1697.

In Albany our great grandfather Lieutenant Daniel Ketel lived in the Third Ward north of Jonker Street. He was at one time constable and collector of taxes. In 1706 he was elected assistant alderman. He owned several pieces of property on Handlers Street and on the road beyond the north gate of the city.

Several of our great uncles of the Ketel name before and after 1700 purchased from the indians large tracts of land north of Albany which the said indians called Saraghtoga. A great uncle William Ketel son of Joachim III held large interest in this tract. Others associated with him were:—Cornelius Cuyler, Cornelius van Dyck, John Johnson Bleeker, Peter Philip Schuyler, Johannes Wendell, Derick Wessells, David Schuyler and Robert Livingston.

Albany became a city July 22, 1686 under charter from Governor Thomas Dungan and there were appointed a mayor, a chamberlain, six aldermen, six assistant aldermen, a town clerk, a sheriff, a coroner, a market clerk, a high constable, three sub-constables and a marshall or sergeant-at-mace. Anyone setting up in business was taxed three pounds twelve shillings. A mechanic paid thirty-six shillings. The mayor and aldermen were granted authority to purchase from the indians a tract of low meadow land at a certain locality known as Schaihtecogue and another place known as Tiononderogue. These names are now Schaghticoke and Ticonderoga.



Our great grandfather Daniel Ketel and his brother David bought a large tract on the west bank of the Hudson River above Half Moon and stretching to Sarachtogue. Later Daniel sold his half to David for one hundred and one pounds and five shillings.

Lieutenant Daniel Ketel is credited with an intimate knowledge of woodcraft and he spoke the Indian Language. At Schaghticoke he was well known by the band of Pequot Indians who hunted and fished along the Hoosick River. The Earl of Bellamont, the Lieutenant Governor of the province, wrote in August 1700 to the British Board of Trade in London:—"I am in hopes of bringing the Eastern Indians to come to settle in and about Schaghticoke with our River Indians; it is a project I have formerly acquainted your Lordships with, which if I can accomplish will be of very great use to strengthen our Five Nations, and annoy the French whenever we are at war with France. Your Lordships will find our River Indians will make me an overture to that purpose\*\*\*\*\*Our Schaghticoke or River Indians were of those Eastern Indians, but were driven from that country by the people of New England twenty-six years ago in the war called King Philip's War. Those Eastern Indians and our River Indians still retain their friendship and intermarry with each other."

The noble Earl had conferred with the Schaghticoke Indians and they stated to him:—"It is now six and twenty years since we were almost dead when we left New England and were first received into this government. Then it was that a tree was planted at Shakkook, whose branches are spread that there is a comfortable shade under the leaves of it. We are unanimously resolved to live and die under the shadow of that tree, and pray Our Father to nourish and have a favorable aspect towards that tree, for you need not apprehend that though our people go out hunting, they will look for another country, since we like that place Shakkood so well."

It is a matter of history that the indians worshipped The Great Father, The Creator of the Universe without being hampered by any creed, doctrine or dogma, as is his white brother now oc-



cupying the United States, and I venture to think that The Great Father classed the indians as His children and so held them as long as they looked to Him. It may be more than a tradition that the Indians of North America had a spiritual leader of the time of Moses whose name was Eawahtah. At any rate in the year 1900 that same tree measuring more than twenty feet in circumference was still flourishing and was called the Tree of Welfare. Man's failure to pray unselfishly to the everlasting Great Father is the cause of world chaos today, for we have not the childlike faith of the Indians.

The outstanding event in the history of Rensselaer County, New York is the massacre of the Ketel family, although that history is sadly garbled in its account of the tragedy, which took place at Schaghticoke on October 20, 1711.

On that afternoon of that day Lieutenant Daniel Ketel accompanied by the husband of his sister Maria, Captain Johannes Barentse Bratt, was en route to visit the village of the Schaghticoke Indians. In the woods they encountered an armed French Indian. Questioned in Indian Language by Daniel the indian said he was out hunting. He said his party was not far away. Then conscious of his own jeopardy, as he had no peaceful motive, he shot and killed Captain Bratt who was mounted.

Daniel seized and struggled with the indian, securing his stone hatchet after receiving a blow from it on his shoulder. The indian struggled clear and ran away pursued a short way by Daniel, who then returned and placing the body of his brother-in-law on the horse returned to his home. He then mounted and rode out to seek help and found three provincial soldiers and an indian boy and sent them to the house to protect the family. He then rode toward Albany for further help, knowing well that the French Indians were on the war path. In his house at this time were his wife (Debora Viele) and two children, his brother David and his wife (Johanna Bratt), his sister Maria, Captain Bratt's widow and her son Joachim, a negro servant, the three soldiers and the indian boy.

About midnight the French Indians came and knocked on the door and when no answer was given they fired shots into the

door. The three soldiers replied to the fire through loopholes in the sides of the house. The indians then set fire to the house. An old and infirm Schaghticoke Indian was hiding in the woods near enough to see and report the whole affair. The three soldiers ran out to fight the indians. The first was shot and killed, the second was captured and the third killed. The negro servant tried to slip through but was captured. Sixteen year old Joachim Bratt was shot in the shoulder and captured. The Indian boy though wounded escaped. Mrs. Bratt, Mrs. David Ketel and Mrs. Daniel Ketel then emerged, the last named carrying her seven months old infant, David Ketel. The baby was killed in the doorway as was also one of Daniel's children.

The indians then set fire to the barn and the corn barrack. They stripped, tommyhawked and scalped Mrs. David Ketel, taking baby Cornelis from his mother's arms and dashing his brains out against a tree trunk, afterwards hanging the little body in the fork of the tree. The captured soldier was horribly tortured, scalped and killed.

Lieutenant Ketel returned at daylight with a force of men only to find that the French Indians had crossed the Hudson River and were scurrying north with their captives and plunder.

A company of fifty soldiers from Albany under Captain Jacobus van Schoonhoven arrived promptly and the three massacred soldiers were given a military burial. A funeral for the family was held in the Dutch Reform Church in Albany and burial made in the church cemetery. Three of the French Indians were found to have been killed by the loophole firing from the house.

The Commissioners of Indian Affairs, Kiliaen van Rensselaer, Evert Banker, Myndert Schuyler and Peter van Brugh wrote at once to Lieutenant Governor Hunter in New York as follows:—  
Quote:—

Albany 22nd October, 1711.

May it please your Excellency:—

We can't in duty omitt to acquaint your Excellency that on the 20th instant in the afternoon Capt. John Bradt and David(?) Ketel were in the woods near Schaahtekook, who met an indian and after they had some discourse with him he shot Capt. Bradt (who was brought dead yesterday) and



designed then to kill David (?) Ketel with his axe but he got the axe from his hand, so the Indian made his escape leaving gun and axe Behind him.

Just now we received certain intelligence that a party of indians have this morning at about twelve o'clock, out of the family of Daniel Ketel, his and his brother's wives prisoners and their children with them, three soldiers of this garrison and his negro servant burnt in his house. We understand that he and the man with him did fight till they were burnt out. A lame indian who was hid behind a fence hath seen all this barbarous threatening, who says that there were about 100 Indians. We sent 50 men on the first notice hereof to see whether this was true and one of them is returned who brings in the foregoing account which he had from Daniel Ketel who met him by the way.

We understand that here are about forty men of the 150 ordered to stay on these fronteers, desiring your Excellency that the fronteer may be well garrisoned this winter and that a clause may be inserted in an act to appoint a Provost Marchall to levy fines of the inhabitants here who are very negligence in doing their duty as is of them required on the night guards.

We are with respect

May it please your Excellency  
Your Excellency's most humble  
and obedient servants.

(Signed by the four above named Commissioners)

For

- His Excellency Robert Hunter, Esq.  
Capt. Gen'l & Gov'r in chief of  
the Province of New York and  
New Jersey at Fort Anna in  
New York.

Unquote.

The Commissioners were commendably prompt and must not be held to account for the errors in the letter. In the first paragraph read, instead of David, his brother Daniel.

Lieutenant Daniel Ketel immediately petitioned Governor Hunter in New York in a letter which follows:—Quote.

To His Excellency Robert Hunter,  
Esq. Captain Generall and Governor  
in Chief of the Province of New York,  
New Jersey and territories depending  
thereon in America. Vice Admiral of  
the same.

The Humble Petition of  
Lieutenant Daniel Ketel of  
the City of Albany.  
Sheweth:—

That your Excelleys humble Petior has by the late Incursions of those cruell and unmerciful Barbarians the French Indians at Schoctecokebeen and extreme sufferer by the loss of your Petiors wife, whom the said barbaraous Indians have taken captive as alsoe barborously murdered two of your Petiors children and they have likewise burnt and destroyed their family and substance and all this to yr Petiors great loss and lamentable grieft and sorrow.

Now your Excelleys humble Petior being very desirous to act according to the best of his ability for Her Majesty's Interest and the common good, as well as for your Petior's Private and peculiar satisfaction for the great loss your Petior has sustained, your Petior therefore very readily and willingly offers his service to yr Excelley to go to Canada with the first party of indians that may or shall be detached by yr Excelley against the French and their inhumane Infidells. But because the season of the year does not permit at present to go with a great party of indians against the French.

Your Pettioner therefore further humbly Beggs that your Excellency in your goodness may be pleased to give your Petior liberty to go now to Canada with two or three Indians by way of pass or protection from your Excellency or any other messages that your Excellency shall think meet in order (if it be possible) to find one and Ransome your Humble Petiors wife they now have Prisoner amongst them before our trouble approaches nearer. Your Petior intending to make all the expedition Imaginable to Petior's home again



and be in readiness uppon the first occasion that presents to go against the enemy Your Petior therefore humbly craves your Excelleys favourable and kind concurrence in his Request and your Excelleys humble Petior as in duty bound—Shall

Ever Pray etc.

Daniel Ketel

—Unquote

The above letter is in the rather squinchy handwriting which is believed to be from his own quill pen.

His request was graciously granted. He was furnished with a passport and a letter from the Governor. Taking several indians with him he left in November and travelled north by way of Lakes George and Champlain, a distance of two hundred and thirty miles to Montreal where he found his wife, his sister and his nephew, ransomed them and was back in Albany in January 1712. We must take note that he was an expert woodsman.

Daniel felt that he could not rebuild on the site of his burned home in Schaghticoke, a most natural emotion, so he made a real estate deal with his neighbor Knickerbacker and built on a new site in the neighborhood of Lewis Viele and Corsett Vedder. As late as 1897 there was on this site a two story clapboard farm house with barn and corn crib. In May 1721 Daniel bought additional tracts from Livingston, Wendell and Wandelaer.

Great grandmother Debora Viele Ketel, who lost three sons before her captivity, had in all twelve children. What a woman! Could any of her female descendants stand up to what she went through? As luck or Providence would have it, at the time of the massacre, Daniel's sons Joachim VI and Douw aged three were not in Schaghticoke and were probably with their grandmother in Albany. So our little great grandfather Douw survived so that this genealogy could be written. All was peaceful thereafter in the Schaghticoke community until 1746.

When the French and Indian War began in 1744, trouble followed and refugees flocked into Albany for protection from the

French Indians which descended upon Schaghticoke and the vicinity. It was easy for them to slip southward via Lakes George and Champlain and through the woods. On April 23, 1746 The Commissioners wrote to Lieutenant Governor Clinton as follows:—"We have just now received that the French Indians have begun their barbarous method of scalping, having yesterday murdered Marme van Vechten a principal farmer of Schaghticoke as he was at work near his house." The governor replied by sending two companies of soldiers.

The First Dutch Reformed Church in Schaghticoke was burned by the French Indians but a second one was erected near the Ketel homestead in 1760. Among the early baptisms in this church was that of Neeltje daughter of William and Anneke Toll Ketel. Our great grandfather Douw, son of Daniel, joined this church in June 19, 1769 at the age of sixty. It evidently took the domines that long to lasso him.

It was a custom about 1770 for the mayor and council of Albany to visit the Schaghticoke plantations, still looking upon themselves as trustees.

In the planned campaign in 1709 for the capture of Montreal, a plan which failed through England's European policies, Daniel Ketel was a lieutenant under Colonel Peter Schuyler. For this service he was awarded "Forty-four ounces of Plate."

On July 10, 1708 the Common Council of Albany decided to allot, to certain citizens, sections of land in what was known as the Schaghticoke Plantations. The tract was large, each subdivision consisting of fifty acres of meadow land and ten acres of upland. To make the assignment perfectly fair to all citizens of Albany a lottery was held and the following citizens were successful:—Daniel Ketel, Johannes Cuyler, Johannes Knickerbacker, Johannes D. Wandelaer, Jr., Barent Gerritse, Cornelius van Buren, Korset Vedder, and Dirck van der Heyden. This van Buren was a forebear of Martin van Buren who became President of the United States. He was a friend of my grandfather Simon Douw Ketel and they were born not far from each other and went to the same school.



The transfer of title was made October 13th in the eighth year of the reign of Queen Anne and in the year of Our Lord 1709. Daniel had to pay sixteen pounds ten shillings current money of New York. In addition he had to pay yearly to the Mayoralty of Albany "just and full quantity of thirty-seven and a half bushels of good merchantable winter wheat." This property jutted on the Hoosick River and Tomhannaock Creek and was about two miles from the Hudson. Van Vechten and Knickerbacker were his neighbors.

Lieutenant Daniel Ketel took part in the futile campaign against Canada in 1711 in Colonel Richard Ingoldsby's Regiment of Independent Fusileers. In the English manuscripts in the General Library of the State of New York, Vol. lvi, page 138 we find the following:—Quote:

New York, October ye 22nd, 1711.

These are to certify yt Dan'l Kettle hath served in Capt. Jno Rudyard's Company in my regiment as lieut. (in ye room of Lieut. Ab. Lyon who desired to be excused from further service in yt station) from ye second day of September 1711 to Octr ye 10th following, and yt he hath a just right and title to ye said pay, as Witnesseth my hand. Rich. Ingoldsby.

—Unquote.

This document is in the colonel's own squinchy handwriting.



## THIRD GENERATION

This was a quiet generation as far as our records go. Douw son of Lieutenant Daniel and Debora Viele Ketel, married in Albany September 9, 1738 Neeltje daughter of Jacobus and Maria Bovie Brouwer of Albany. Their children were:—David born May 11, 1738, Maria born July 15, 1739, and William born June 14, 1740. All of these children were born on the plantation at Schaghticoke. I will ask that my readers examine not too closely the above dates. I have recorded them as in the records.

Of these children the following is recorded:—Maria married in Schenectady October 2, 1759 Carel Hansen Toll of Schenectady, son of Simon Hansen and Hester de Graff Toll and born September 2, 1733. Their children were:—Daniel born April 23, 1767 at Schaghticoke, Abraham born January 17, 1769, Maria born October 5, 1771, Johannes born October 4, 1772 and David born August 10, 1781.

Of David eldest son of Douw I have no record, but the younger son William was our great grandfather in the fourth generation.

At this point in this book great uncles and great aunts are becoming far too numerous for me to follow them out so I will stick to the main line hereafter.

## FOURTH GENERATION

William Ketel, son of Douw and Neeltje Brouwer Ketel, married July 12, 1763 Anneke daughter of Simon Hansen Toll of Schenectady. She died April 1, 1816 and was buried at Tomhannock. He died at Schaghticoke August 28, 1829 and was buried beside his wife.

Their children were:—Neeltje (Eleanor) born April 10, 1764, Hester born December 4, 1765, Douw born December 20, 1767, Elizabeth born March 14, 1769, Simon, no record of him, Maria born at Schaghticoke July 29, 1774, and David born at same place August 30, 1778.

Elizabeth married a Frenchman named Exceen and died March 30, 1836, leaving three daughters, Catherine, Maria and Alida.

In the Revolutionary War William Ketel, under the pseudonym of Kittle, which distorted spelling of the family name completely destroys its proper pronunciation, served from 1778 to 1781 as a private in Captain Teunis Bratt's Company of the Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.

When the Revolution broke out, Schaghticoke and Hoosick furnished enough men to form the Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia with John Knickerbacker as colonel, van Vechten and van Rensselaer as majors, Toll as adjutant and Kip as quartermaster.

This regiment served from time to time under Generals Schuyler and Gates. When General Burgoyne came down from Canada with an army bound for the Hudson Valley to cut the country in half and shut off New England, the Fourteenth Regiment was in our army opposing him and fought the battles of Bemis Heights and Freeman's Farm being present at Burgoyne's surrender. Burgoyne's Hessians did actually get as far south as the Schaghticoke Blockhouse.

Our great grandfather Ketel, alias Kittle, served as a private in Captain Bratt's Company, when Colonel Peter Yates succeeded to the command of the regiment in June 1778; and later he served under Captain Vandenburg. He served actively at the front

from July 23rd to October 13th, 1779, from May 17th to June 7th, from October 11th to November 12th, 1780 and finally from October 10th to November 24th, 1781.

Besides William Ketel there were ten members of the Ketel family that served in the Revolution, some of them under the spelling of Kittle, these were:—Adam, Benjamin, Daniel, Henry, four Johns and Ensign Nicholas Ketel.

William Ketel was an elder and deacon in the church at Schaghticoke and after the death of his wife Anneke Toll, April 1, 1816 he went to live with his daughter Elizabeth Exceen at Schaghticoke Point. In his will dated September 17, 1817, the following is the way the names of his sons are recorded, they being heirs to his property. (1) Douw Kittle, (2) Simon Kettle, (3) Simon Kittle and (4) David Kittlehuyn. This goes to illustrate to what depths the family had sunk in their distortion of the very simple family name of Ketel. This was carried on, more or less, for six generations, until my father George Wetmore Kittelle revolted and resorted to a spelling as close as possible to one of the variations previously used in Europe so as to insure the proper pronunciation. The substitution of the letter "i" for the letter "e" could not be avoided for legal reasons, otherwise we would write it Kettelle which is more correct, but either one maintains the pronunciation.



## FIFTH GENERATION

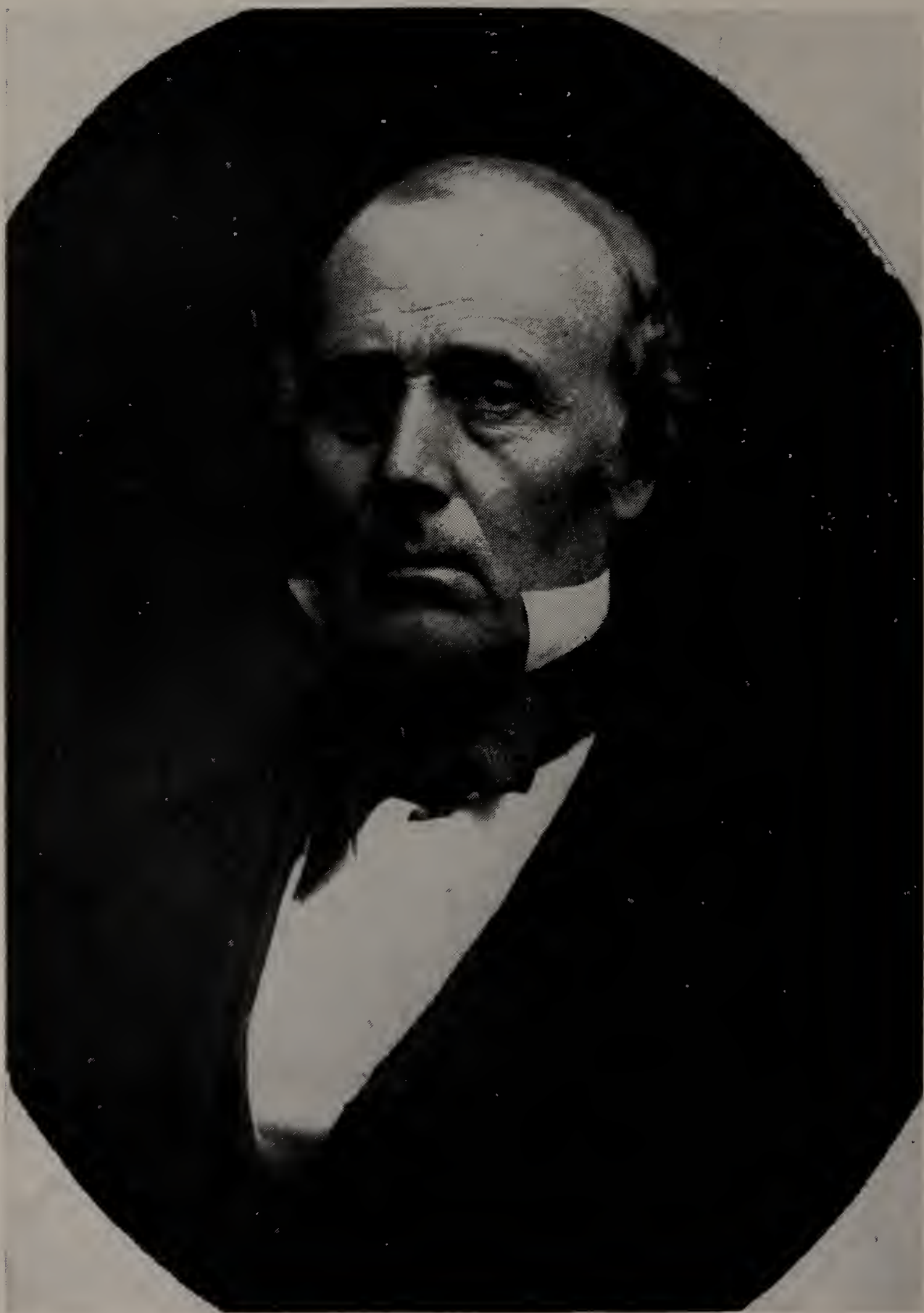
Douw Ketel son of William and our immediate great grandfather was born in Schaghticoke on the old plantation on December 20, 1767 making him almost one hundred years older than the writer. He married Jeanne Almy born in 1769. She is the first great grandmother who was of English lineage, all the former ones in America being Dutch. I have not been able to trace her line down from father to daughter, but know definitely that she was descended from William Almy who was born in Belinden, Kent, England in 1601 and came over to America under the leadership of Governor Winthrop in 1629 and settled in Sandwich afterwards moving to Portsmouth, Rhode Island. The Almy family is now in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and the middle west. The name Almy is of Norman-French origin. The earliest known member served under Hugh d'Avaranches, known as "Hugh the Wolf", and became Earl of Chester in the invasion of Wales. The Almy arms are:—"Gules, within a bordure, a castle proper above two crossed keys argent. Knight's helmet. Crest, A sword, lance and pennon held by a shield charged with a cross.

The children of Douw and Jeanne Almy Ketel were:—Elizabeth born July 21, 1794, Albertus born February 4, 1797, Simon Douw born November 1799, Storm born September 25, 1800, Lena Ann born February 3, 1803, and William and Alexander whose dates of birth I cannot find. All these children were born on the plantation at Schaghticoke, according to the record.

Soon after the birth of my grandfather Simon Douw Ketel his father moved to Ames, a lovely little village to this day, in the township of Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York, but still kept his hold on the plantation in Schaghticoke. Douw was a deacon in the church. He was drowned during a freshet in Schoharie Creek on September 29, 1814. These sudden risings of seemingly gentle creeks may be very serious, as the writer well knows, one such freshet in Ketel Kill flowing through his mountain home "Ketelshagen" in Shandaken, Ulster County, rose twelve feet and carried away a very substantial bridge. No further information on this fifth generation is available.







SIMON DOUW KITTELLE

## SIXTH GENERATION

Simon Douw son of Douw and Jeanne Almy Ketel was born on the plantation at Schaghticoke in November 1799, the day being obliterated. He married in Ames, Montgomery County New York, Lucy Elizabeth daughter of the Honorable Seth and Lucy Doolittle Wetmore who was born in Canajoharie, New York, May 9, 1803. Simon Douw died in Schoharie, New York September 6, 1862 and Lucy Elizabeth died in New York City January 20, 1881.

They had children as follows:—Marietta, Charlotte, George Wetmore born in Ames September 18, 1827, Edward, Newell, Douw, Herbert C. and Charles A. I deplore the fact that I have no dates for these aunts and uncles. Preceding generations were far more careful of records. Aunt Charlotte married D. V. Berry of Fonda, New York.

It is really shocking that I should have no further knowledge of my father's sisters and brothers and I greatly regret the fact. In extenuation as far as I am concerned I will state that I entered the navy at the age of seventeen and never thereafter returned home, except for occasional short visits between cruises and naval duties on shore. When I entered Annapolis in 1885 my parents left New York, breaking up the home there and thereafter living in hotels here and there east of the Rockies, but largely in the south. My father passed on in 1905 and not until my retirement from active service in 1931 did I realize my ignorance of the immediate branch of the family and then it was too late to consult him. I was in public life and easy to find at any time through the Navy Department, but the only one to get in touch with me was George Addison and we held each other in affectionate regard. He visited me on board ship once in awhile when my ship was in New York and several times at "Ketelshagen" in Shandaken as he had a summer home in Cairo, Greene County, always bringing some of his children with him.

I probably saw many of my relatives at my grandmother's funeral in New York in 1881 but I was only thirteen at the time. I believe that my Uncle Edward was a captain in the Civil War



and that Uncle Douw was a member of the New York State Legislature. My Uncle Charles was in Wall Street, I believe, and on his demise he spoke most kindly, in his will, of the pleasure he had over my seeming success in the world.

Grandfather Simon Douw inherited his father's large farm at Ames which adjoined that of the Honorable Seth Wetmore who came from Winchester, Connecticut in 1805 and settled in Ames. It was natural that my grandfather should marry Lucy Elizabeth Wetmore for he had only to climb the fence, if there was one, and visit the Wetmore home. My father George Wetmore Kittelle was the oldest son of this union and he was born at Ames September 18, 1827.

Several of the Ketel and Wetmore families are interred in the beautiful and well kept cemetery at Ames. On the headstone of great grandfather Douw is inscribed:—"My flesh shall slumber in the ground till the last trumpet's joyful sound; then burst the chains with sweet surprise and in My Savior's image rise." In his time it was not so clearly recognized that we are spiritual beings temporarily dwelling in a physical body and that release is immediate. Great grandpa may have been surprised to find himself in spirit life without having to wait for Gabriel.

On the stone erected to Grandfather Simon Douw we read the following "Servant of God; Well done. Thy glorious warfare's past, the battle fought, the race is won and thou art crowned at last." I believe that both of these gentlemen, father and son, were deacons and pillars of the church.

My great grandfather Seth Wetmore was descended from Thomas Whitmore who came from England in 1635 and settled first in Wethersfield and then moved to Hartford, Connecticut. His line of descent runs:—Thomas Whitmore and Sarah Wilcocke-Hall, Samuel Whitmore and Mary Bacon, Samuel Wetmore and Hannah Hubbard, John Wetmore and Elizabeth Leming and finally himself and Lucy Doolittle. Original descent is claimed as from Sir John de Whytemere in 1230. It is even claimed that the family name was originally de Boterel. See "The Wetmore Family in America" by James Carnahan Wetmore.





GEORGE WETMORE KITTELLE



## SEVENTH GENERATION

George Wetmore Kittelle son of Simon Douw and Lucy Elizabeth Kittelle was born in the pretty little village of Ames, New York September 18, 1827. He married first a lady whose name I do not know and cannot now find out for I neglected to ask my own parents ere they passed on. By his first wife George Wetmore had two sons:—John L. and George Addison. Both of these boys were educated in the Peekskill Military Academy one of the oldest schools in New York State. John L. I do not remember but I have a memento of him. Upon a visiting card he had drawn a circle, the size of the three cent silver piece, now no longer in circulation, and within the circle in a band across the middle he had engraved the Lord's Prayer. At the top of the card he wrote:—"The Lord's Prayer written in the space of a 3c silver piece." in a beautiful hand. At the bottom of the card he wrote:—Compliments of John L. Kittelle, To Ensign S. W. Kittelle. I never knew the place or date of his death but heard that he left a daughter.

George Addison I did know though I saw him very infrequently. He was a very fine citizen and my daughter Mary Kittelle Dessez, who met him one summer at Shandaken, was quite charmed with this heretofore unknown uncle. I know that he married an English girl Betsy Martin and that they had six children as follows:—(1) Netta who married Edgar Bethell had Howard B. Bethell who married Marie Schroeder, and Mabel B. Bethell; (2) Georgia Florence who married Henry Chute and had two sons Morgan and William; (3) Emma Beatrice who married George Curtis Raines and they had Whitney R., Wesley R. and Robert; (4) Bessie May who married John Sheets and had Florence S. and John; (5) George Addison, jr., a widower with no children and (6) Walter who married Mildred Read and had no children.

George Addison Kittelle, Sr. had a home in Bergenfield, New Jersey and another in Cairo, New York. I have not at hand the date of his death which occurred in the late 1930s in Bergenfield.

George Wetmore Kittelle married second Marie Louise daughter of Nathan Deyo and Elizabeth Wolfe Geer in the church of

The Incarnation in New York City, January 25, 1866. Marie Louise Geer was descended from George Geer, who came from Heavitree, near Exeter, Devonshire, England and landed in Boston in 1635, going from there to New London and Groton, Connecticut. The Geer line runs thus:—George Geer and Sarah Allyn, Jeremiah Geer and Esther Hilliard, Oliver Geer and Elizabeth Newberry, Captain Rezin Geer and Mary Vanderburg, Peter Geer and Maria Deyo and Nathan Deyo Geer and Elizabeth Wolfe.

Now here is where French Huguenot blood came into the Ketel family. My mother's father Nathan Geer was born in New Paltz, Ulster County, New York and was the son of Peter Geer and Maria Deyo. Maria's line is:—Christian Deyo and Jeanne Verbeau; Pierre Deyo and Agatha Nichol, Christian Deyo and Marie Lecomte; Moses Deyo and Clartschen Stockraad. Christian Deyo a native of Calais, France came to America in 1673 to escape religious persecution. He lived first at Esopus near Kingston and then established the village of New Paltz of which he was the daddy. Writers state that the name was written:—d'Oyeau, Doyau, Doyo, Dyeo and Deyoe. Granddaddy signed his name de Yoo.

The Geer arms are:—Gules, two bars argent each charged with three mascles of the first, on a canton or a leopard's face azure. Knight's helmet. Crest, A leopard's head erased proper ducally gorged or, langued gules between two wings gules. Motto, Non sans cause.

For a fuller account of the Geers see *The Geer Geneology* by Walter Geer, 1923. I believe that the two bars in the Geer shield should be or and not argent, at any rate so my mother's family says. Heraldically it is more reasonable.

Marie Louise Geer was born in New Baltimore-on-the-Hudson September 20, 1833. She was a graduate of Hunter's College in New York at a period when few women had a college career. At the time of her marriage she was the principal of the largest girls' school in New York City.

George and Marie Louise Kittelle had but one child Sumner Ely Wetmore Kittelle born in Peekskill, New York June 14, 1867.

My maternal grandmother Elizabeth Wolfe was descended from George Wolfe who came to Philadelphia in the ship *Queen*



of Denmark in 1751 and in 1763 he was a captain in the French and Indian War. One of the family, George Wolfe, was Governor of Pennsylvania. My grandmother's brother was George Wolfe showing how the name George came down the line.

In this seventh generation belong also my aunts Marietta and Charlotte and my uncles Edward, Newell, Douw, Herbert C. and Charles A. Ketel or if they use their older brother's spelling, Kittelle. Ketel is pronounced and always has been pronounced Ket-el'the accent being heavily on the final syllable. If pronounced Kettle it becomes an Irish family and so far as I can trace we have no Irish blood.

The historian Wiese, who wrote an excellent history of New York, in writing of the children of Simon Douw and Lucy Elizabeth Kittelle states as follows:—"Their oldest son George Wetmore Kittelle born at Ames, New York September 18, 1827 engaged, when still a young man, in merchandizing and later in the manufacture of cotton goods, owning extensive mills at Avon, Connecticut, Pittstown Four Corners, Rensselaer County and at Fonda in Montgomery County, both New York. After an active business career of fifty-seven years he retired from its cares and anxieties and resides in New York. On January 25, 1866 he was married at the Church of the Incarnation to Marie Louise daughter of Nathan Deyo and Elizabeth Wolfe Geer, a descendant of a family of Devonshire gentry in England. One of the member George Geer settled in New London, Connecticut in 1651. Her great grandfather Captain Rezin Geer was killed and scalped in the Massacre of Wyoming Valley on July 3, 1778, on the sight of which a monument was erected to his memory."

I will try from memory to add something to the above account. When I was born my father was a business man with an office in New York and owner of cotton mills as stated by Mr. Weise. He had a play farm of about eighty-three acres at Peekskill, New York where he and my mother went in summer and it was on this farm that I was born, so that I can legitimately claim to be the son of a farmer.

Adjoining my father's farm was that of the celebrated preacher of that day, Henry Ward Beecher and the families were very



friendly. It seems that the Panic of 1873 played havoc with cotton mills and later as a boy of ten I remember that he was president of the Manhattan Varnish Company with offices at 100 Maiden Lane, New York City. Still later on he became interested in the establishment of hotels at Fernandina, Florida in association with Senator David Wycliff Yulee; at Beach Haven, New Jersey in association with Mr. Parry president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works and again with General later Senator Powell Clayton at Eureka Springs, Arkansas. About this last period I went to sea.

As a small boy I remember we had a house at 23 West 23rd Street, New York next door to the old and famous Fifth Avenue Hotel. Later on business began to encroach on 23rd Street and my father moved to 7 West 31st Street, from which home I went to the Naval Academy, appointed by Congressman Abraham H. Hewitt, who was later Mayor of New York City.

The arms of the von Ketel family will be found delineated on pages 132 and 133 and Plate L in *Pommersches Wappenbuch* by J. T. Bagmihl, Stettin, 1843. It also contains a short account of the family in Europe. I will try to translate it into English heraldry:—Party perpale, dexter checky of twelve sable and or; sinister or fifteen hurts 3-3-3-3 and 3. Count's helmet. Crest, Three lilies of the field proper. Mantling: Dexter sable and or; Sinister azure and or.

It seems evident that somewhere in the past an alliance with an heiress brought in the sinister half of the shield.

The Wetmore arms are simpler:—Argent, on a chief azure three martlets or. Crest, a falcon proper. Motto, *Tentanda via est*.





REAR ADMIRAL KITTELLE  
Commanding Destroyer Squadrons of Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.



## EIGHTH GENERATION

I greatly regret that we have to take up this Eighth Generation with such limited data and especially with no knowledge, by the writer, of the children of my two aunts and five uncles of the Ketel name, sisters and brothers of my father. So I am forced to be contented with word of my two half-brothers, children of my father's first marriage. These two brothers have been spoken of in the account of the seventh generation.

Sumner Ely Wetmore Kittelle was born on his father's farm at Peekskill on June 14, 1867. As June 14th has been made National Flag Day it seems but natural that he should serve under that flag, in the navy, from the age of eighteen to the age of sixty-four both inclusive. A brief summary of his career is taken from contemporary copies of Who's Who in America:—Quote:—

KITTELLE, Sumner Ely Wetmore, naval officer, b. Peekskill, N. Y. June 14, 1867. s. George Wetmore and Marie Louise (Geer) K: grad. U. S. Naval Acad. 1889. m. Anna Lockwood d. late Adm. Charles D. Sigsbee. Mar. 22, 1897; children; Anna Louise (wife of C. J. Moore, U. S. N.), Elsa (dec.), Mary Sigsbee (wife of Lester A. Dessez, U. S. M. C.), Sumner Sigsbee, John, Nancy. Ensign July 1, 1891, promoted through grades to Rear Adm. June 3, 1921. Served on Dolphin, Spanish-Am. War 1898, Secy Gen. Bd. Navy Dept. 1905-07, duty with the building of the Mississippi, 1907-08, served on Mississippi 1908-09, exec. officer same 1909-10, at Navy Yard Boston 1910-13, comd. Wheeling 1913-14, at Naval War Coll., Newport, T. I. 1914, com. Albany 1914, Maryland 1915, Naval War Coll. 1915-17, Apptd comd. Georgia, Jan. 5, 1917, sr. mem. Alaska Coal Comm. 1919, mem Bd. of Inspection & Survey 1920, apptd. gov. of Virgin Islands by President Harding April 1921, comdr. Destroyer Squadrons of Scouting and Battle Fleets 1922-24, comdt. Eighth Naval District 1924, pres. Naval Examining Bd. 1925, comdt. Naval Dist. of P. I. 1926-28, comdr. Fleet Base Force, U. S. Fleet 1928-29, pres. of Inspection and Survey 1929-31. retired. Home; 2229 California St. N. W. Washington, D. C.

He married, first, Anna Lockwood daughter of Commander (later rear admiral) Charles Dwight and Eliza Rogers Lockwood

Sigsbee in the New Church, 16th and Corcoran Streets, N. W. Washington, D. C. on March 22, 1897. They had six children:— Anna Louise, Elsa, Mary, Sumner Sigsbee, John and Nancy. Dates for these children will be given in the ninth generation.

Anna Lockwood Sigsbee Kittelle was born in Georgetown, D. C. September 13, 1871 and passed into spirit life May 9, 1942 in the home in Washington after an illness of many months. She was an ideal wife for a naval officer. She accepted the absences and vicissitudes of navy life sweetly and patiently. All with whom she came in contact learned to love her. She had a host of friends and not one enemy. She was a splendid mother as is shown by the fact that all of her children have made most honorable places for themselves in life. She enjoyed life keenly as wife of the Governor of the Virgin Islands being born to such an environment. In the Philippines she was second lady of the islands in the time of Governor General Leonard Wood and Governor General Stimson and was very popular with all races. In the last decade of her life on Earth she enjoyed the quiet home life at 2229 California Street, Washington which Lieutenant Kittelle built in 1905; and the summers in the Catskill Mountain home Ketelshagen in Shandaken. She had the gift of reading music at sight and was so proficient on the piano as to play in Adamowski's Ensemble in the Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Here I will give a brief account of her father the late Rear Admiral Charles Dwight Sigsbee, U. S. Navy who was born in Albany, New York January 16, 1843. He entered the Naval Academy as a midshipman in 1860 and was ordered into active duty in the Civil War in 1863. In that war he took part in the attack on Fort Fisher. Because so many naval officers resigned and went south he was advanced to Lieutenant Commander at the age of twenty-three. He served on many stations and at the Naval Academy. Preceding the Spanish War he was captain of the battleship Maine that was blown up in Havana Harbor, a cause of the Spanish War, and during the war he commanded the St. Paul which defeated and drove back into the harbor of San Juan, Porto Rico a Spanish destroyer. He later commanded the battleship Texas. After he became a rear admiral he com-



manded the European Squadron that brought back from France the body of John Paul Jones which now reposes in the crypt at the Naval Academy. He was an expert in hydrography and deep sea sounding and the inventor of a deep sea sounding machine that was used in the service for years. He also invented navigator's parallel rulers. He retired under the age limit January 16, 1907 and died in New York City July 19, 1923.

This is a good place to introduce a little anecdote bearing upon the distortion of family names from which the Ketel family has so greatly suffered. After I had been Admiral Sigsbee's son-in-law for many years I ventured to say to him:—"Admiral, did you know that there is no such name as Sigsbee?" "What do you mean" he said. You may be sure that I did not open this subject without having all the facts, so I replied, "You are the great great grandson of Manasseh Sixbury or Sixberry who came from London and settled in the vicinity of Schenectady, New York (I found that in Schenectady the records showed both spellings) and married Pietertje Jonkers a descendent of Jan Jonkers for whom the city of Yonkers, New York was named. After Manasseh your line of descent runs:—Evert Sixbury and Elsie Egmont, Nicholas Sigsbee and Cornelia Cooper, Nicholas Sigsbee and Jane Sible and Nicholas Sigsbee and Agnes Orr." The admiral received the news with equanimity.

Anna Lockwood Kittelle's grandfather on her mother's side was General Henry Hayes Lockwood, a graduate of West Point in the class of 1836. When a lieutenant in the army he was borrowed from the War Department by the Navy Department to organize and drill a battalion of midshipmen, similar to that at West Point. This finally resulted in his resignation from the army to accept a commission in the Corps of Professors of Mathematics in the navy, a corps that was abolished a number of years ago. When the Civil War broke out his native state of Delaware made him colonel of the First Regiment of Delaware. He obtained leave from the navy and served during the war in the army being finally a brigadier general and commanding a brigade at Gettysburg, as a monument on that battlefield will show. After the war he was mustered out of the army, returned to the navy and



was finally retired for age with the rank of commodore, the only man to that time to hold both ranks, brigadier general and commodore. Down to the general the Lockwood line runs:—Richard Lockwood and Mary Aydlock; Armwell Lockwood and Mary Holland, Richard Lockwood and Margaret Jackson, John Lockwood and Ann Kirkley, William Kirkley Lockwood and Mary Hayes and finally Henry Hayes Lockwood and Anna Booth.

The coat of arms of the Lockwood family is given as:—"Argent, a fess sable between three martlets of the same. Crest, an oak stump erased proper with a martlet sable. Motto, Tutus in Undis.

Sumner Ely Wetmore Kittelle, married second, Elizabeth Clift Rodenbaugh, daughter of John Washington and Nellie Elizabeth Clift Rodenbaugh of Chester, Pennsylvania July 7, 1943 in Ephiphany Church, Washington, D. C.

John Washington Rodenbaugh was the son of Washington and Katherine Stringfellow Rodenbaugh. Nellie Elizabeth Clift Rodenbaugh is the daughter of Washington Clift and Hannah Nugent Jackson. She married a second time, William Frederick Voltz a banker of Philadelphia.

From early girlhood Elizabeth Clift Rodenbaugh grew up in the home of her step father and for a time when in school used the name of Voltz but, of course, never legally. At the outbreak of World War I, young and filled with the patriotism of youth, she volunteered for Red Cross work in France, joining Pennsylvania Red Cross Unit No. 10 and sailed for England May 19, 1917. After ten days in England her unit went over to France and restaffed an army war hospital at Le Treport, France, ministering to the wounded. She remained on duty in France until April 1918 when she went back to London and there on April 11, 1918 she married Colonel Matthew A. DeLaney of the Medical Corps of the United States Army. In London she did relief work under Mrs. Whitelaw Reed the widow of the former United States Ambassador who was head of the American Red Cross in London. In gratitude for this service Mrs. Reed presented her with a silver tea set of the period of George III.

Colonel DeLaney, afterwards promoted to brigadier general, was a distinguished member of his corps with wide acquaintance.

He died in Washington November 1, 1936. After his death his widow took up residence in the St. Nicholas Apartment House, which is directly across California Street from the home of Admiral Kittelle, and she got to know all the Kittelle clan. After her marriage to Admiral Kittelle she continued the many social service activities that marked many years of her life. She is vice president of District of Columbia Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames and was for two years president of the Board of Lady Managers of the Ephiphany Church Home. It was in Ephiphany Church on G. Street in Washington that her marriage to Admiral Kittelle was solemnized by Dr. Charles W. Sheerin. Mrs. Kittelle is also actively engaged in the work of the Florence Crittenden Home and is on the board of The House of Mercy, where she is chairman of the House Committee. She is deeply interested in good government and is a member of the League of Republican Women. In all these activities her energy, unselfishness and executive ability are outstanding.

I have been disappointed at the paucity of information on some of our forebears in earlier generations and so I will, for the benefit of my descendents, try to give an outline of my own life.

Early in 1885 my mother, a college graduate herself, determined upon a college career for me and entered my name in the School of Mines of Columbia University. In March of that year or maybe April I learned of an examination to be held at the College of the City of New York for appointments to West Point and Annapolis. I took the examination which was oral and held before the Faculty of the college seated upon a platform above us. I was nervous and very frightened. The President of the college sat in the center and as he had been a general in the Civil War, he was a very great man in my eyes. To my astonishment about a week later I was called to the office of Congressman Abram H. Hewitt somewhere way down town. Waiting in the outer office was another boy whose face I remembered at the examination. After considerable delay we were ushered into the office of this great man. Looking up from his desk he asked:—"Which one of you young gentlemen is Kittelle?" I owned up to my name. He then said:—"You are of an age for either Academy but this other one is too old for Annapolis." Without pausing



for thought I replied:—"I would quite as willingly go to Annapolis." That settled it. The Congressman wished us well and we withdrew.

Soon after, armed with the appointment, I left for the little historical City of Annapolis, took and passed the examinations and on May 19, 1885 I was sworn in and became a member of the Class of 1889. Before the middle of June I was a lubber on board of the full rigged ship Constellation and far out into the Atlantic. The four year course at the Naval Academy was uneventful. I was never a baseball or football player nor an athlete so no plaudits fell my way. The first class year I was a cadet lieutenant in command of the color company. They were called divisions not companies as at present. I was lucky enough to win the colors again. I have neglected to say that as a second classman I was a buzzard bearing an eagle on my sleeve and marched with the file closers. I was graduated number seven. The two top men went into the Construction Corps and never took the final examination at the end of two years at sea, and on the final examination I gained one file and was commissioned number four. Now, as I write, the three above me have gone sailing on spirit seas leaving me, now, the senior graduate who completed the full course.

I spent two years immediately after graduation in cruising on board of the Chicago, flagship of the European Squadron, mostly in European waters, but also, for a short time, in the South Atlantic as far south as Buenas Aires. The next two and a half years I spent on board of the Bennington in both Europe and South America, after which being a short timer, with only six months to do, I was transferred back to the Chicago at Ville Franche to round out the three years cruise. These months were spent in the Mediterranean and the North Sea. Returning home from Southampton, England by merchant liner, I was given three month's leave with orders to report to the Office of Naval Intelligence in the Navy Department, Washington. I spent this leave mostly with my parents in the south. This last duty extended into two years until I was sent to the Bancroft, remaining on her a very short time and then going to the Dolphin which we called the "Royal Yacht" because she was at the disposal of The Presi-



dent and very often took Mr. McKinley here and there. He was a very kind, considerate and loveable man. I was attached to the Dolphin for three years during which time I was married and went through the Spanish War. The Dolphin, sent into active service by The President, was present at the blockade of Hanana. the blockade and bombardment of Santiago and the capture of Guantanamo. It fell to my lot to carry a message from Admiral Schley to Admiral Sampson at night in the St. Nicholas Channel.

After this came another tour in Washington, once more in Intelligence, and broken only by a summer cruise on board of the battleship Indiana. Finally after this assignment and at the beginning of this century I went to the Lancaster on which old ship I was in succession watch officer, chief engineer and navigator. The second half of this cruise was on board the Yankee where I was chief engineer and later executive. At the expiration of this three year's cruise I came on shore as Secretary of the General Board of which Admiral Dewey was President. In the spring of 1907 I was ordered to Cramp's Shipyard to inspect the new battleship Mississippi and to be her executive when commissioned. When completed I commissioned the ship, in command because no captain had been ordered, and got her in every way ready for sea. After a month or so delay Captain John C. Fremont, son of The Pathfinder, came on board at the League Island Navy Yard and took command and the next morning we sailed for the West Indies. This was a very happy cruise. When Fremont was promoted to Rear Admiral he was succeeded on the Mississippi by Captain William F. Fullam of the Class of 1877. At the end of the cruise I went to the Boston Yard where Admiral Fremont was Commandant. I strongly suspect he had something to do with it. While at the yard, the summer of 1912, being then a commander, I was ordered to command the battleship Massachusetts for the summer maneuvers. While at the yard Admiral Fremont died very suddenly March 7, 1911 and was succeeded by Admiral De Witt Coffman. In 1913 at the beginning of the Mexican Revolution I was ordered first to command the Marietta and then the Wheeling and was assigned to the Gulf Coast of Mexico visiting in turn all the Mexican ports, protecting American interests and especially the oil at Tampico.

One night after dinner, when Tampico was invested from without by rebels and the Wheeling was anchored just above the town where full control could be maintained, I received orders from the admiral, who was outside with four battleships, to evacuate about three hundred American women and children who were under fire and endangered. This took all night and it was about daylight when, having divided the passengers into four parts, I delivered them to the battleship division anchored out in the Gulf.

The summer of 1914 I spent as a student at the War College, Newport, R. I. and then went to the Pacific to command the Albany which was then down on the west coast of Mexico. After awhile I was ordered to take the Albany to the Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington and put her out of commission. This accomplished I was ordered to command the Maryland then at San Francisco. On this cruise I was sent post haste with the Maryland to Honolulu to find and raise submarine F-4 which had been lost with all hands not far out from the harbor. I took with me some expert deep sea divers sent from the east coast by special train. After a long search these experts found the hull of F-4 which was located beyond the ten fathom shelf and on the down slope, the depth being the very extreme at which divers could then descend. They could not stay down long and had to be brought up slowly and then put in a compression chamber. One became entangled and the other succeeded in clearing him and bringing him up, at the extreme risk of both of their lives. For this rescuer I finally obtained a Medal of Honor.

With the aid of large pontoons which we had to go back to Mare Island to get the wreck was finally raised and brought into dry dock. There was a hole in the hull through which a small auto could be driven. It is evident that F-4 got out of control and ran into a coral head. No trace of officers or crew could be found. In December 1915 I was detached from command of the Maryland and ordered to the War College for a full year's course.

In January 1917 having duly graduated from the War College, senior course, I was ordered to command the battleship Georgia which was at the Boston Navy Yard having new boilers installed. While there War I was declared and being senior officer afloat I



immediately sent armed parties to take possession of all German ships in Boston harbor. During the whole war the Georgia was in the Third Division of the United States Fleet under Admiral Mayo as commander in chief. Our, division commanders were, in succession, Admirals Rodman, Snowden and Jayne. Twice during the war I was detached from the fleet to escort and command convoys taking troops to France. In the larger of the two convoys under my command there were eight troopships with about forty thousand men, and the escorting and protecting force consisted of the Georgia, an armored cruiser and four destroyers. When the armistice came I was in mid-Atlantic on the way home, and I intercepted the radio announcing the armistice.

After hostilities ceased I was soon detached from command of the Georgia. I was sent to Alaska at the head of a commission to inspect the railroad and coal mines and lookout for possible oil deposits. Alaska is quite delightful, save for the huge and fierce mosquitoes in the forests, and we all enjoyed the work. I enjoyed, especially, being conveyed over the snow in a sledge behind a team of quarrelsome dogs. This duty completed and the voluminous report turned in, to which, thereafter, no attention was ever paid, I was ordered to duty as senior captain on the Board of Inspection and Survey, which involved a great amount of travelling by land and sea. After an absence of twelve years my family was able to see and enjoy our home at 2229 California Street, Washington.

In April 1921, soon after his inauguration, President Harding appointed me Governor of the Virgin Islands and I was promptly confirmed by the Senate. We had bought these islands from Denmark to prevent the Germans from seizing them which they planned to do in accordance with their bandit ways, knowing that Denmark could not resist. Two very pleasant and profitable years followed. I had scarcely landed in the islands when I was promoted to rear admiral. While governor I had the pleasure of extending the school system and opening the first high school, building roads and water works, encouraging the small industries including the rum and bay rum industry. This last I am glad to say was in defiance of the Prohibition Commissioner of the United



States, for I had supreme authority in the premises, the Organic Act by Congress having conferred upon the governor "all civil, military and judicial power" which, by the way, made the governor the most powerful one in the world. I did, as a matter of fact put prohibition into effect but in a sensible way and according to my own ideas; and to keep the Methodist Church at home quiet, I made a Methodist Navy Chaplain prohibition commissioner of the islands and he did what I told him to do. In-exercising the power conferred upon me by The Congress I always tried to follow the Biblical injunction to be "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove."

After two years in the governorship it became time for me to return to the practice of my profession and I was appointed to the command of the Destroyer Squadrons of the Atlantic Fleet, seventy-two destroyers divided into four squadrons, half of which were held in reserve ready for full commission when needed. This duty was delightful as I greatly prefer the destroyer to the ponderous battleships. After a year in this command I was transferred to exactly the same force in the Pacific Fleet and one winter, in maneuvers in Panama Bay, I commanded both Atlantic and Pacific forces, the former having come through the Panama Canal. After this cruise I was ordered as President of the Naval Examining Board in Washington, which board examines all naval officers for promotion. I delayed in assuming this duty for several months as Admiral Marbury Johnson, the incumbent, was due for retirement soon but had several months to go. During this time I was Commandant of the Eight Naval District with headquarters at New Orleans and we lived on one of those fine old plantation houses with avenues of magnolia trees.

I spent two years at the head of the Examining Board and then was ordered to the command of the Sixteenth Naval District which comprised the whole of the Philippine Islands. Upon arriving in the islands I found myself senior to the general holding the corresponding army command and second only to the Governor General himself, who was General Leonard Wood the best colonial administrator we ever had. We lived in the Comandancia in the Naval Station, Cavite and built a century ago

for the Spanish admirals. It was a charming old place with walls two feet thick and spacious rooms. In World War II the Japs completely destroyed it and I have all that remains, a huge brass key to the front doors. Very soon after arrival I was elected president of the Army and Navy Club, Manila, not on merit but merely that I was the senior. The Japs have also completely destroyed this beautiful club situated right on the shores of Manila Bay. Manuel Quezon, afterwards President of the Philippines, was then very obstreperous and giving the Governor General, who was not in good health, a lot of trouble. I was very indignant and made a number of public speeches expressing in the clearest language possible what I thought of the situation. I have good reason to know that Quezon did not love me, however he definitely modified his behavior and as he was a smart and a tricky politician they say he made a good president. I was concerned merely in maintaining the prestige of the United States.

While I was in command of the Naval District of the Philippines, General Leonard Wood, the Governor General wrote as follows:—Quote:—

Manila, May 14, 1927.

Sir:—

I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 1926.

(Here follows the report in full and then in conclusion)

I wish also to acknowledge the loyal cooperation and assistance rendered by Rear Admiral Sumner E. W. Kittelle, commandant of the Sixteenth Naval District and Major General Fred W. Sladen, commanding the Philippine Department of the United States Army. These two officers have always stood ready to do everything in their power to assist the Governor General in upholding the prestige of the American Government in the Philippine Islands.

Very respectfully,  
Leonard Wood  
Governor General.

To  
The Honorable,  
the Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

Unquote.



Upon completion of my tour of duty in the islands I returned to the Pacific Coast after being relieved by my classmate Rear Admiral William Dugald MacDougall, U. S. Navy. Soon after arrival at San Francisco I relieved another classmate Rear Admiral William Woodward Phelps, U. S. Navy of the command of the Fleet Base Force, which was the service of supply for the entire United States Fleet. While holding this command I had as my flag lieutenant Lieutenant Commander Charles J. Moore the husband of my oldest daughter. I held this command for one year and was relieved by another classmate Rear Admiral Thomas Pickett Magruder, U. S. Navy, after which I came to Washington and took over the duty of President of the Board of Inspection and Survey, in simpler words the inspector general of the navy. Arriving at the retiring age of sixty-four I was placed on the retired list on July 1, 1931.

After his retirement from active duty Admiral Kittelle interested himself to some extent in politics being a voter in the 27th Congressional District of New York. At that time the district was represented in The Congress by a banker Philip A. Goodwin. If all members of Congress were only of his honesty and ability we would have less bad legislation and the country would not be in the clutches of dishonest labor leaders and paralyzed by strikes. When it came time for his reelection Admiral Kittelle made a speech before the Republican Convention placing Mr. Goodwin in nomination. He was reelected and served until his untimely death.

Admiral Kittelle holds the various medals of the Spanish War, the Mexican Revolution and World War I. In the official records of the Spanish War it is recorded that he was recommended for promotion by his commanding officer for service in the bombardment of Santiago and the capture of Guantanamo. In World War I he was awarded the NAVY CROSS which is second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was also awarded a "Special Letter of Commendation by the War Department for War Service" which was for getting large numbers of troops safely to France through the uncertain paths of the German submarines.



## NINTH GENERATION

Anna Louise Kittelle, born in Washington, D. C. January 28, 1898, married April 16, 1921 Lieutenant Commander Charles Johns Moore, U. S. Navy born in Decatur, Illinois December 19, 1889. Their children are:—Charles Kittelle Moore, Lieutenant (j. g.) U. S. Navy born in Vallejo, California March 3, 1923; Sumner Kittelle Moore, Midshipman, U. S. Navy born in Annapolis, Md. April 24, 1926 and Johns Kittelle Moore, born in Washington, D. C. April 20, 1931.

She attended various schools and is a graduate of the Girls Latin School of Boston. She attended for one year Pembroke College of Brown University. She also had business training and during World War I served in the Veterans Bureau in Washington, D. C.

Charles Johns Moore, now a Captain in the navy was the son of Rear Admiral Charles Brainard Taylor Moore and Helen Johns Moore of Decatur, Illinois and grandson of Jesse Hale and Rachel Hines Moore also of Decatur and Mrs. H. C. Johns all of Decatur. Rachel Handley Hines Moore died November 26, 1894 in her 73rd year.

Captain Charles Johns Moore was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1910. He rose through all the grades from ensign to captain, serving successively on board of the New Hampshire, Petrel, Monadnock, Bainbridge, Saratoga, Balch, Downes, Dayton, McDermot, Hatfield, New York, Altair and Philadelphia. He served on the staffs of the commander of the Fleet Base Force and of the commander of the Battleship Force and was chief of Staff for Admiral Spruance during the capture of many of the Japanese south sea islands in World War II, while in World War I he commanded the destroyer Downes in European waters. He has served in the Navy Department four times, as an instructor at the Naval Academy once and on the staff of the War College of which institution he is a post graduate. He was in 1945 deputy secretary of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the army and navy and has had the historical distinction of being present at the Potsdam Conference in Germany where Stalin, Churchill, Atlee and President Truman met.

For services in World War I he was awarded the NAVY CROSS and as chief of staff under Admiral Spruance in the attacks on and capture of the Gilberts, Marshalls and Mariana Islands he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Rear Admiral Charles B. T. Moore, U. S. Navy was born in Paris, Illinois, July 29, 1853, the son of General Jesse H. Moore of Civil War note and later a member of The Congress. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1873 and rose through all the grades to flag rank, serving on board of many ships and at many naval stations. He was at one time Governor of Samoa and later commanded the naval district of the Hawaiian Islands. After his retirement he served as a member of the Illinois Constitutional Convention. He died April 4, 1923 at Philadelphia, Pa.

General Jesse Hale Moore's father served in the War of 1812 and his grandfather was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. He began life as a Methodist minister but in the Civil War he was colonel of the 115th Regiment and later as brigadier general he commanded the Iron Brigade. After the Civil War he served two terms in Congress and finally died when Consul at Callao, Peru, July 11, 1883.

Elsa Sigsbee Kittelle was born in Washington, D. C. September 20, 1901 and died there October 28, 1902. Elsa came between Anna Louise and Mary.

Mary Sigsbee Kittelle was born at Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y. September 12, 1903 the only one of the children to be born in the family's native state. She married in St. Thomas Church, Washington, D. C. Lieutenant now Colonel Lester Adolphus Dessez, U. S. Marine Corps, on June 8, 1925. They have two daughters:—Lester born September 14, 1928 in Long Beach, California, and Jeanne born October 15, 1939 in Washington, D. C.

Colonel Dessez was born in Ballston, Virginia, June 20, 1896 and is the son of Charles E. Dessez born in Ghent, Belgium November 18, 1859 and died January 1, 1926 and of Cora Cecelia Serrin Dessez born in Washington, D. C. March 15, 1863 and died there December 25, 1924. Charles E. Dessez was the son of Leon and Wilemena Gebhardt Dessez. Leon Dessez was the son



of Nicholas and Marguerite Tonnel Dessez. Since Colonel Dessez has such a complete record of his family it is unnecessary for me to say more here.

Colonel Dessex entered the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant shortly after the beginning of World War I. In World War II he was in the South Pacific for two years and was charged with the fortifying and defense of Samoa for which he was commended. He has served on the staff of one Major General Commandant of the Corps and on the staffs of several other marine generals. At this writing he has just completed a tour on the General Staff, Navy Department and is booked for service under the general commanding the whole Pacific area. He is a graduate of the Ecole de Guerre in Paris, France, previous to which he was graduated from the Marine Officer's School, the Company Officer's School and later as a regimental commander he was graduated from the Division Officer's School at Fort Benning, Georgia and from the Army and Navy Staff College in courses at Washington, Leavenworth, Orlando and Newport.

Sumner Sigsbee Kittelle was born in Washington, D. C. June 22 1909 and married in Washington Indiana September 8, 1935 Josephine Catherine McGehee born there May 15, 1909. They have one daughter Katherine Allen Kittelle born in Washington, D. C. July 7, 1942 and called by her paternal grandfather "Kitty".

Sumner Sigsbee Kittelle was educated in private and public schools in Newport, R. I., Brookline, Mass. and Washington, D. C. where he was graduated from the Central High School. He was entered in Purdue University in 1926 but being then only seventeen it deemed desirable for him to go to the Philippines with his parents for one year and then return to the states and enter Purdue. His father was at this time Commandant of the Naval District comprising the whole Philippine archipelago and lived in the old Spanish commandancia at Cavite.

While in Cavite Sumner served for one year under the civil engineer of the Naval Station there to gain practical experience and was finally entrusted with the erection of the station laundry building. During the summer of 1927 he returned to the states



by way of Singapore, Ceylon, Red Sea, Egypt, Italy, France and England and entered Purdue in the fall joining the Reserve Officer's Training Corps of the university. During his senior year he was senior cadet colonel commanding the brigade of motorized field artillery.

Through the recommendation of an old friend Dr. F. Homer Curtiss he was taken into the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and lodged in their fine residence for the whole four years. He was graduated in 1931 "With distinction", having been a fellow of the Tau Beta Pi fraternity of General Engineering and Chi Epsilon fraternity of Civil Engineering. His honor fraternities were the Iron Key for outstanding members of the senior class, Scabbard and Blade a military fraternity, Purdue Order of Military Merit a military fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi a professional journalistic fraternity and the Gimlet Society of boosters of athletics. He was a member of the Student's Council, night editor of the University's daily newspaper The Purdue Exponent and was publicity director of the Little Theatre Players.

Just before his graduation in 1931 the Engineer of Maintenance of Way of the Pennsylvania Railroad came to Purdue and after consulting with the President of the University chose Kittelle and another senior for service in the railroad. President Elliott a very brilliant man was also a bit of a wag and was a personal friend of the visiting engineer. Turning to the latter he advised:—"You would better not select that boy Kittelle." "Why not" asked the great railroad man. "Because" said President Elliott, "in five years he will have your job." As a matter of fact after the graduation in 1931 the railroad laid off ten thousand men in all branches and Kittelle never served the road for a day. At this period of national disorganization a graduate engineer had two openings, that of bell hop or street sweeper.

After consultation with his parents he decided to study law, since the prospect in engineering was entirely hopeless, and enrolled in the Law School of George Washington University. Upon election President Roosevelt started the National Recovery Association, probably the first of the many alphabetical commissions and corporations, and as Sumner desired to work

as well as study, his training was of value to that organization and he served in it until it died a natural death.

Taking the full law course at George Washington he finished number one man in his class with the degree of Juris Doctor. He received the Order of the Coif for scholarship in law and was one of the editors of the George Washington Law Review. In writing this book in the fall of 1945 and following winter there was a change in the Judge Advocate Generals of the Navy. Captain Thomas L. Gatch, who when a junior lieutenant was one of my watch officers when I was captain of the Maryland, was succeeded by Captain Oswald S. Colclough who was a classmate of Sumner S. Kittelle in the Law School. Sumner noting this appointment in the papers, wrote to his father of Captain Colclough:—"He took first honors our freshman year in Law School and thereby chiseled me out of a fifty dollar prize."

Soon after graduation in law, the firm of Feldman and Kittelle was formed with offices in the International Bank Building, Washington. The firm gradually expanded becoming Feldman, Kittelle, Campbell and Ewing and was retained to do certain law work for the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company under Mr. Carruthers Ewing, general counsel for that company. Mr. Barney Baruch, the counsellor of Presidents and probably the wisest and most influential jew in the country gave an audience to Mr. Feldman who brought his partner Kittelle along. Feldman gave a little build up to his young partner and Mr. Baruch said with his usual wisdom:—"That is where he came from. What I want to know is where is he going."

The firm now has offices in the Shoreham Building in Washington and in the Graybar Building in New York, and the firm in Washington is Kittelle, Sawyer and Lamb and in New York it is Sumner S. Kittelle. The firm is still retained as before.

The home of Sumner S. Kittelle is at 7 Dundee Road, Larchmont, N. Y. He is a member of the Larchmont Yacht Club, the Wings Club of New York and the National Aeronautical Association. He is a member of the following Federal Courts:—Supreme Court of the United States, Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, District Court of the District of Columbia,



District Court of the Southern District of New York, District Court of the Western District of New York and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Richmond, Virginia.

He is a member of the bar of the State of New York, the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Josephine Catherine McGehee Kittelle of Washington, Indiana is a graduate of De Pauw University, Greencastle, Indiana of the class of 1930. She is the daughter of Jesse Franklin McGehee, Jr. of Washington, Indiana born October 27, 1881 and of Bessie Price McGehee of Shoals, Indiana born March 13, 1883. Her father is the son of Jesse Franklin McGehee, born April 28, 1849 in Davies County, Indiana and died October 27, 1916 and also of Josephine Allen born February 14, 1854 in the same place. Her mother is the daughter of John Price born April 19, 1826 and died October 20, 1888 and of Catherine Morris Price Prentiss born January 10, 1854 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana and died October 17, 1926.

John Kittelle was born in Brookline, Mass., December 30, 1913 and married January 30th, 1942 Polly Wayne Wirgman born August 31, 1916 and daughter of William Wayne Wirgman, born March 24, 1878, died July 7, 1926 and of Elizabeth Ryon Wirgman born October 6, (year withheld), and who was the daughter of George Walker Ryon born April 30, 1839 and died April 29, 1917 and of Phoebe Huntzinger Ryon born November 20 1844 and died June 20, 1930.

John Kittelle is a graduate of the Western High School and of the National University Law School. He worked for several years in the Procurement Division of the Treasury and in his early twenties was commissioned an ensign in the Supply Corps, U. S. Naval Reserve. Over a year before the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor he was called into active service attending the first class open to supply officers of the reserve. Upon graduation from this school he served on board of the battleship Wyoming and then for a year was Supply Officer of the U. S. Marine Transport

Elliot, then he served for a short time in the Supply Department of the Boston Navy Yard. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II he was sent secretly to Wallis Island in the South Pacific to establish the necessary supply services for such of the naval forces as might be operating in that locality. He was on this mission including a short time at Pearl Harbor, for about eighteen months and then was ordered home and thence to duty as Supply Officer of the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla. After a number of months there he was transferred to similar duty at the Naval Amphibious Base, Fort Pierce, Fla. During his war service he rose to the rank of lieutenant commander.

Commander and Mrs. John Kittelle had one son Jonathan Lockwood Kittelle born November 13, 1944 at Jacksonville, Fla. and died there November 17, 1944. The loss of this boy caused grief throughout the family as he was the only male grandchild to bear the family name.

Nancy Kittelle born in Brookline, Mass. March 5, 1915 married in the New Church, Washington, D. C. May 10, 1941 Fred Grotch Bennett, then a lieutenant now a commander in the United States Navy, and born in Yazoo City, Miss. September 9, 1915. They have one son Nicholas Lockwood Bennett.

Nancy Kittelle Bennett was educated in the public schools of Washington, D. C. and of Brookline, Mass. and is a graduate of the Western High School and the Temple School of Business and Secretaries both of Washington.

Commander Fred Grotch Bennett U. S. N. is the son of John Patterson Bennett born April 1, 1874 in Morton, Miss. and of Clara Antonette Groch Bennett born July 7, 1881 in Sandusky, Ohio. He was graduated number twenty-eight in the large class of 1936 at the Naval Academy. He is also a graduate of the post graduate schools of the Naval Academy and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he won the degree of Master of Electrical Engineering. He was a lieutenant on board of the battleship Maryland at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 during the treacherous air attack by the Japanese in time of peace between the two nations, for which dastardly act we have made them pay many times. His wife was in a cottage near Waikiki



Honolulu at the time. Neither was injured. During the latter part of the war he has served as gunnery officer of the U. S. S. Topeka in the Pacific campaign winding up with the surrender at Tokyo.

## TENTH GENERATION

The first child born in the family bearing the family name is Katherine Allen Kittelle daughter of Sumner Sigsbee and Josephine Catherine Kittelle. She was born in Washington, D. C. July 7, 1942 and is a charming and greatly beloved child.

The second child bearing the family name was Jonathan Lockwood Kittelle son of Lieutenant Commander John and Polly Wayne Wirgman Kittelle. He was born in Jacksonville, Fla. November 1, 1944 and died there November 17, 1944. He was a fine baby boy and had he lived he might have carried on the family name. His navy and army heritage is a most unusual one. On his father's side his sire is a lieutenant commander, his grandfather a rear admiral, his great grandfather a rear admiral and his great great grandfather of the class of 1836 at West Point had been a brigadier general in the Civil War and later retired as a Professor of Mathematics with the rank of commodore, having served at the Naval Academy many years. On his mother's side his great (5) grandfather was Major General Anthony Wayne, United States Army of Revolutionary fame. The child's remains are interred in old St. David's Church Yard, Radnor, Pa. alongside General Wayne's monument.

Anthony Wayne was born in Easttown, Pa. January 1, 1745, the son of Isaac Wayne, grandson of Anthony Wayne and great grandson of Captain Gabriel Wayne. It was a Yorkshire family. He inherited a farm in Chester County. He organized the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion and served under General Benedict Arnold in the campaign against and the retreat from Quebec. General Schuyler gave him the command at Ticonderoga and made him a brigadier general. Later Washington gave him command of the "Penn Line" and he distinguished himself at Morristown, Brandywine and Germantown and saved the day at Monmouth. Under Washington he organized a Light Infantry Corps and brilliantly recaptured Stony Point and was dubbed by his enthusiastic countrymen "Mad Anthony". He returned to his first command and in 1781 was sent south to join General Greene and then to aid Lafayette against Corn-



wallis. After the war he was given a large rice plantation and Congress brevetted him Major General. He recruited troops to form the regular army and Washington made him a major general of regulars. At one time he operated against hostile Indians in the mid-west, defeated them and brought about a treaty which opened up the north west. He died in active service at Erie December 15, 1796.

Since the Wirgman records are very complete I refer to them for more information on Jonathan's descent on his mother's side.

Charles Kittelle Moore born March 3, 1923 in Vallejo, Cal. was educated in private schools in California and was graduated from St. Albans School for boys in the Washington Cathedral Close. He was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1944 after but a three year course owing to World War II and after a short course in aviation at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla. he was sent to the Pacific and assigned to the destroyer Remey which vessel was serving actively in the fleet operating against Japan in the Pacific islands and in Japanese waters. The Remey was most active in the Battle of Suragao Strait where her torpedoes helped sink Japanese battleships. From a junior station onboard he stepped up to being torpedo and fire control officer as well as standing regular senior watch. He is at present a Lieutenant (J. G.) in the regular navy.

In World War II the writer was far too old to be allowed to serve at all but the family was splendidly represented by Captain Charles J. Moore, Colonel Lester A. Dessez of the Marines, Commander Fred G. Bennett, Lieutenant Commander John Kittelle, supply officer of the reserve, Ensign Charles K. Moore and now Midshipman Sumner K. Moore. These officers have served with distinction in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, but it fell to the lot of Ensign Charles K. Moore to be in the most battles and right in the middle of them. This young officer, not yet two years out of Annapolis, has been on board of the destroyer Remey in the midst of every scrap. A letter from him to his parents written after the Battle of Suragao Strait was printed in The Army and Navy Register and is given below:—He was promoted to lieutenant, junior grade, January 1946.

November 6, 1944.

Dear Mom and Dad:—

Censorship has been lifted to allow us to give a little general information concerning our last operation. No dates or names of other ships or departure points, though.

Needless to say we went to the Philippines. Our initial work was slow and hot, as escort of a vast number of landing craft. The morning we arrived the gulf was black with ships, and in the pre-dawn we experienced our first air attack. The AA fire was an impressive spectacle, red tracers filling the sky. The closest we came to trouble, however, was when a shell from our own forces burst just off our beam, scattering shrapnel too close for comfort. We did not stay in the transport area long, and so missed a lot of air trouble they had. Our first job was to move down to Suragao Strait and screen against expected enemy PT boat attacks. These and mines were our big initial worry. We were at general quarters all night long, but nothing developed. The next day we were relieved by groups of our own PTs which took over the southern end of the Strait, while we moved a bit further north, still patrolling station against any movements from the south. For several days we saw little action other than dawn and dusk air attacks and occasional daylight attack. We were pretty clear of the real danger area, and our combat air patrol did a good job on those planes which picked us out.

Before long, however, more and more Japs began to show up and our air cover seemed to grow smaller, due to northern developments. During this period our most exciting day, we all agreed was when our lookouts picked up a floating mine dead ahead, just in time for us to miss it. It took an hour's work of small arms and automatic weapons to sink the darn thing. Then our schedule was interrupted when several Avengers, flack-injured from a raid on Cebu, crashed around us. We picked up one pilot and crew, and had them aboard for about a day. It was a nice change to hear someone else's stories for a change. This guy was quite a character. At the time he left for his carrier, he decided he had had plenty of destroyer duty, but at that time he did not know he was stepping from the frying pan into the fire.

General quarters for air attacks grew to be an immense pain in the neck. We tried to fix chow time so we could eat during a probable lull, but it seemed that every time I sat down, off would go the general alarm, and since I was standing fours' watch in twelve, I was plenty busy, not to mention tired. I'd hate to count the times I crawled into my sack, only to be aroused in a dishearteningly few minutes by another flash red. I believe I managed about seven or eight hours sleep in these two days.



Then the fun started. An urgent dispatch told of a Jap task force moving down by Cebu and obviously heading for Suragao the southern of the two navigable entrances to Leyte Gulf. The executive announced to the crew that we were going to engage in a night surface action against the enemy column moving up from the south. They would first run into our group of PTs, after which we would meet them with a torpedo attack. Behind us would be the heavy ships of our Seventh Fleet Force. This electrifying announcement came up so suddenly none knew what to make of it. We couldn't understand what had become of our air cover or our fast carrier force. Chow that evening was rather quiet, except for hurried plans between the C. O. and Torpedo Officer, and constant buzzing on the voice radio.

Well, we got prepared for anything. When I went to GQ finally, I had my life jacket, field jacket, pistol, knife, helmet and a dozen other gadgets, most of which were ridiculous. That night I had the mid-watch in the director, but managed to catch a couple of hours sleep before 11.30. At 2 in the morning we went to GQ having gotten the dope from our PTs that the Japs were closing. My GQ station is on a machine gun director on the after stack where I can get a good view of everything. I can't go into much detail about what really went on. We were at the head of the first group of three cans to move down. The first indication I had that we were near the enemy was when I saw the tubes begin to train out, and through my glasses I could make out the vague shapes of several large ships broad on the bow. Things were getting pretty exciting, and I kept up a lively chatter with my boys to keep our spirits up. We were plenty nervous, mostly from excitement. In fact, I even feel excited just writing this general account. But the best was to come.

Suddenly, just before we fired, a large enemy searchlight stabbed the darkness just aft of us. Our first fish swished out her tube and splashed into the water. The light went out. It was a real thrill to watch the fish slam out and hit the water with a terrific smack. Two more were fired and again the searchlight came on—this time directly on us. I kept asking myself why in hell we didn't open fire and shoot it out. Someone shouted "Hit the deck!" but I was busily watching the torpedo splashes and wondering if the Japs could make them out. What a sight we must have been to the enemy, pouring down on them at full speed. And what a beautiful target we were. For a moment I wished I were on a Jap ship just to be able to see what we looked like, and to see the Jap skippers bawling out orders and the guns training out. Again my talker shouted "Hit the deck!" and I



didn't need a third invitation. The enemy light was out, but with a loud "crump," two star shells burst overhead. I felt ridiculous on deck, it being quarter-inch steel, and the weather protection being only canvas.

Well, the stars were followed by different stuff, and every time a shell screamed overhead I winced. We had completed firing, were going into our turn, and had begun to make the best smoke you ever saw. It was gagging, suffocating, and heavy with oil, but it was beautiful. I ventured several looks around, and in the erie light of the star shells saw we were being straddled by enemy shells of about six inches. Rings of foam all around us indicated other near misses. But by this time we were well on our way. "Come on, you ship," I kept saying uncounsiously trying to press us on. Soon we drew far enough out of range so their star shells were ineffective and soon the shells ceased to whistle over. God what a relief. I was sweating like a race horse only it was cold. I had to practically scrape by boys out from under their helmets to tell them all was clear. And when we stopped making smoke, I thought the fresh air was the most wonderful stuff I had ever smelled. Astern explosions and continued firing indicated our torpedoes were in there, and the Second Division was attacking.

We pulled up along Dinagat Island to screen a possible escape route. Behind us was the red glow of a burning ship. Then the cruisers opened up. What a sight! The sky was red with tracers. Salvo after salvo floated through the air and crashed down on the thoroughly confused Japs, who never did recover from our attack. Above the cruiser trajectories rose the heavy shells of the battleships. It was a sight we were thankful to see. Jap return fire was ineffective. In the morning our heavy columns again moved north. The Japs had been totally smashed. We transferred our doctor to a smaller can, and moved up to the transport area for fuel. We had been first ship to fire on the enemy, including some of her heaviest units, and we are certain of our good results.

Air attacks continued. Our planes were very busy up north. That night we again prepared to fight, as the fleet formed in battle disposition, and moved out of Leyte Gulf northward. However, nothing developed. The Japs retired. The papers say the southern task force we engaged was totally destroyed. We have done something very few others have, and we are plenty proud, not to mention lucky. This ship's luck has been fantastic. Thank goodness for some lousy Jap fire control! The whole operation was one heck of a lot of fun and excitement. The



trouble is, I am spoiled now. Anything else which could happen could only be a bore.

That's about all the dope I can give. If it's of any interest you might show Mr. Lucas and send Peggy a copy. I can't write it twice. I will try and write again soon. Still no mail.

All my love,

Tim.

C. K. Moore, Ensign, U. S. N.

The Mr. Lucas referred to above is Canon Lucas, Headmaster of the St. Alban's School and Peggy is an exceedingly attractive young woman.

Sumner Kittelle Moore is a graduate of St. Albans School at the Washington Cathedral and is a midshipman in the third class at the United States Naval Academy.

Johns Kittelle Moore is a student in St. Albans School as above.

Miss Lester Dessez, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Dessez was born in Long Beach, Cal. and is in her last preparatory year preceding entrance into some college.

Miss Jeanne Dessez a younger daughter was born in Washington, D. C. and is in primary school.

Nicholas Lockwood Bennett son of Commander and Mrs. Fred G. Bennett was born in Cambridge, Mass. and is still in lusty babyhood.

When World War II broke the Navy Department considered me far too old to serve in any capacity although a few admirals five or more years my juniors were used in an advisory capacity.

My younger son John Kittelle is the only one, bearing the family name, to serve through World War II, half of the time at the Pacific front.

Our forebears seem to have been members of the Dutch Reformed, the Methodist, the Baptist or the Episcopal Church. In the world, as everyone knows, there are dozens of sects differing from one another over the very simple, lucid and definite teachings of Jesus. In giving thought to this strange condition in the realm of what, since the time of the Emperor Constantine, men have called the Christian Religion, it must be borne in

mind that all creeds, doctrines and dogmas are strictly man-made. Jesus merely said that man should love The Creator completely and love his neighbor as himself. Furthermore, that this short injunction covered all law and anything that any prophet might conjure up. It is complete.

It is my individual belief that man should think for himself uninfluenced, if that be possible, by any man-made scheme to cover spiritual progress onward and upward. Inner guidance is ever present if one tunes in and asks for Truth. I like very much that ancient injunction:—"Man know thyself," and I reverence and seek to follow another injunction:—"Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." Surely here lies the road to truth and wisdom.

I would like to call to mind the fact that we dwell upon the surface of the smaller of the planets of our solar system, which system seems to be but one of millions such constituting our galaxy. How many millions of such galaxies are there throughout what we are pleased to call space? I fear we are over concerned with our importance and with the cyclic events that occur and recur on Earth.

It has been written that The Creator has endowed man with Consciousness and Free Will and that even He will not revoke them. With these two tools we are equipped to build the Temple of Character, which is the only possession that we can take with us when we leave Earth life. When we are weighed in the balance what will be the grade of our Spiritual Gravity in spirit life? It is up to us.

I love very much a very ancient prayer which goes thus:—

"Great Father to whom we are all as but children, friends of the friendless and helpers of those who need; Be our friends when other friends have failed us; Be our helpers in the hour of our extremity. In so far as it may be for our mutual good, be with us this day and through all the days of this our Earthly life. Lead us by the hand of love. Point us to the pathway of duty. Bear with us as we stumble over the pathway which leads onward and upward into the Light; and we shall hope one day to stand with You in the midst of the Radiant Splendor of Eternal Truth; and we shall be ever grateful.

So mote it be."



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Albertsen  
Allen  
Allyn  
Almy  
Aydlock

Bacon  
Bennett  
Bestvael  
Bethell  
Beecher  
Bleeker  
Booth  
Bratt  
Brouwer

Campbell  
Carstenssen  
Chute  
Clayton  
Clift  
Clinton  
Cooper  
Cuyler

de Boterel  
de Garmo  
de Laney  
Dessez  
Deyo  
Doolittle  
Douw  
Dries  
Dungan  
Dewey

Egmont  
Ewing  
Exceen  
Feldman  
Fremont

Gebhardt  
Geer  
Gerritse  
Goodwin  
Groch

Harding  
Hayes  
Helms  
Hewitt  
Hunter  
Huntzinger  
Hilliard  
Hubbard  
Holland

Ingoldsby

Jackson  
Jansen  
Johns  
Johnson  
Jonkers

Kirkley  
Knickerbacker

Lansing  
Lecomte  
Leming  
Livingston  
Lockwood

McGehee  
Mayo  
Megapolensis  
Moore

Newberry  
Nichol  
Nicholls

Orr

Parry  
Pauwelsen  
Pels  
Prentiss  
Preuzien  
Price

Raines  
Read  
Reed

Ridder  
Rodenbaugh  
Ryon

Schüttens  
Schuyler  
Sible  
Sigsbee  
Sixberry  
Sladen  
Staes  
Stockraad

Toll  
Tonnell

van de Water  
van der Heyden  
van der Zee  
van Dyck  
van Buren  
van Ness  
van Rensselaer  
van Valkenburg  
van Vorst  
van Woggelum  
van Vechten  
Vedder  
Verbeau  
Viele  
Visscher  
Voltz  
Vrooman

Wandelaer  
Washington  
Wayne  
Wendell  
Wessells  
Wetmore  
Willcocke-Hall  
Wirgman  
Wolfe  
Wood

Yulee

























